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2009 Scrimshaw Place • Landfall • $1,195,000

Overlooking the 9th hole of Landfall's Nicklaus Marsh course with easy access to the Landfall Clubhouse, this brick Georgian offers perhaps Landfall's favorite back porch. The fenced back yard and lush landscaping provide the perfect back drop for outdoor entertaining. Inside you'll find formal dining and soaring living room, a study and first floor master.

3 Backfin Point • Figure Eight Island • $2,650,000

Perfectly positioned on a deep water canal and across the street from the shimmering waters of the Atlantic Ocean, this Figure 8 Island house offers the best of both worlds! In the words of the seller " every sunrise I sit on the top porch with my morning coffee and in the evenings I sit on the top porch on the back of the house and watch the most glorious sunsets!

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1615 Landfall Drive • Landfall • $1,049,000

Wake up to glorious sunrises over the shimmering waters of the intracoastal waterway from this high bluff setting in Wilmington's award winning gated community of Landfall with resort style amenities through the country club of Landfall (membership optional). This 3 bedroom 2 1/2 bath home will welcome you from the moment you step inside.

805 Gull Point Road • Landfall • $835,000

Located in the quiet cul-de-sac of one of Landfall's prettiest streets, Gull Point Road, this true post and beam home is tucked down a tree-lined winding driveway and borders the scenic tidal Howe Creek with soaring ceilings, open floor plan and floor to ceiling windows. This home embraces the rolling, wooded site and offers complete privacy.

1525 Black Chestnut Drive • Landfall • $1,295,000

If privacy & elegance are important, this beautiful Mediterranean inspired Landfall home is a must see! Overlooking a scenic lake and Jack Nicklaus designed golf course (Pines #6 and 7). This masterpiece captures the best sun and prevailing breeze with its treasured southern exposure.

1713 Signature Place • Landfall • $439,000

Located just inside the Eastwood and Drysdale entrances to Wilmington's award winning Landfall Neighborhood, this elegant two bedroom two bath townhouse condominium overlooks a large pond with distant golf views.

19 Comber Road • Figure Eight Island • $1,750,000

Located on the north end of North Carolina's most private beach, Figure 8 Island, this 4 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath contemporary beach design features outstanding ocean views from the second row location with easy beach boardwalk access. Enjoy beautiful sunrises from the double porches on the ocean side and glorious sunset from rear deck.

4 Mallard Street • Wrightsville Beach • $2,650,000

It's all about the ocean.... Classic, clean, contemporary! Incredible six year old Wrightsville Beach dream home features 5 bedroomjs, 5 Ð baths, double porches, elevator, reverse floor plan with 2 sets of accordion doors bringing the outside in!

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1403 Quadrant Circle • Landfall • $1,249,000

A Landfall Georgian masterpiece, this all brick executive home sits high on a wooded knoll overlooking Quadrant Circle pond. Completely updated this open floor plan features large rooms, exquisite moldings including raised panel den off of the first floor master. Updates throughout the home including stainless and granite kitchen and granite counters in all baths.

2 Oak Landing Road • Oak Landing Townhomes • $575,000

Located in Wilmington's sought after Shandy neighborhood (off Greenville Loop), this three bedroom, 2 1/2 bath townhouse features an open floor plan with vaulted cypress ceiling and great natural light with floor to ceiling and great natural light with floor to ceiling glass overlooking a 2 acre pecan grove.

281 Beach Road N • Figure Eight Island • $1,995,000

Located on a high ridge lot overlooking the marsh and tidal creek in fabulous Figure 8 Island, this reverse plan offer great ocean views and convenient beach access across the street. This 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bath residence is nestled in the maritime live oaks and features multiple decks, an elevator, 2 car carport, outdoor shower, vaulted ceilings and over sized windows to take the views in every direction!

1608 Landfall Drive • Parsley Woods • $1,695,000

When only the best will do. "Las Palmas" offers security, serenity and privacy with the double villa lot setting completely fenced and gated. Located between the Intracoastal Waterway and Landfall's Pete Dye Clubhouse and golf course, this resort styled family compound features two brick residences centered around an elegant salt water pool and cascading fountain.

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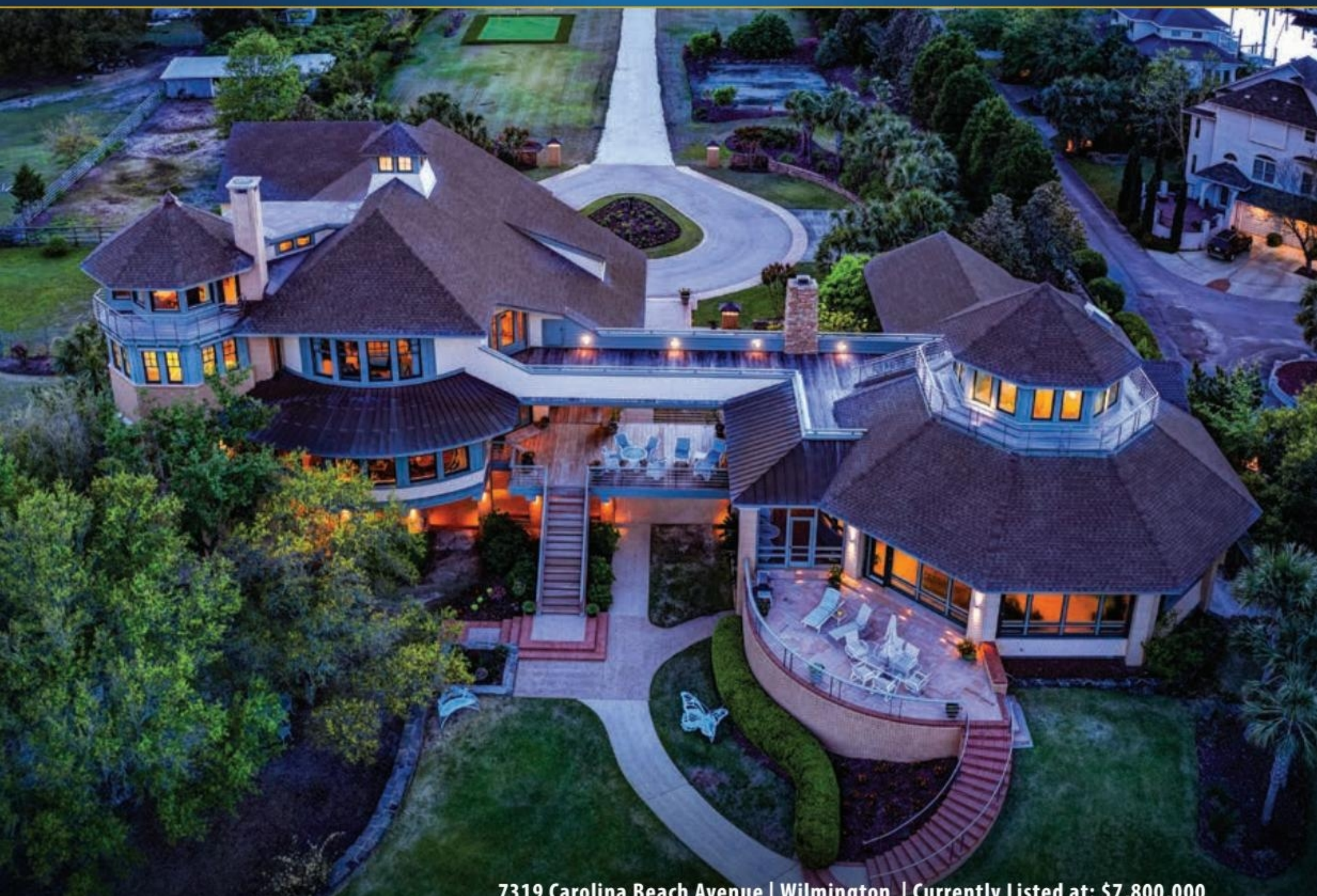

7319 Carolina Beach Avenue | Wilmington | Currently Listed at: $7,800,000

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Salt
MAGAZINE

VOLUME 7, NO. 5

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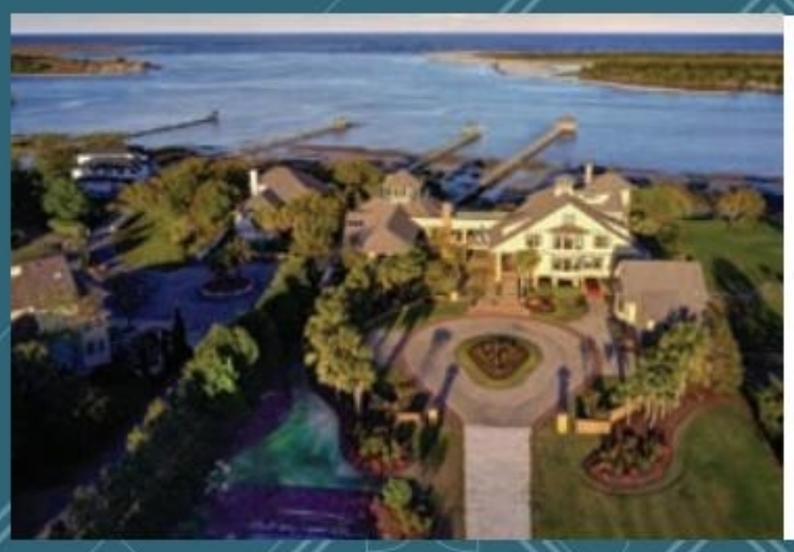

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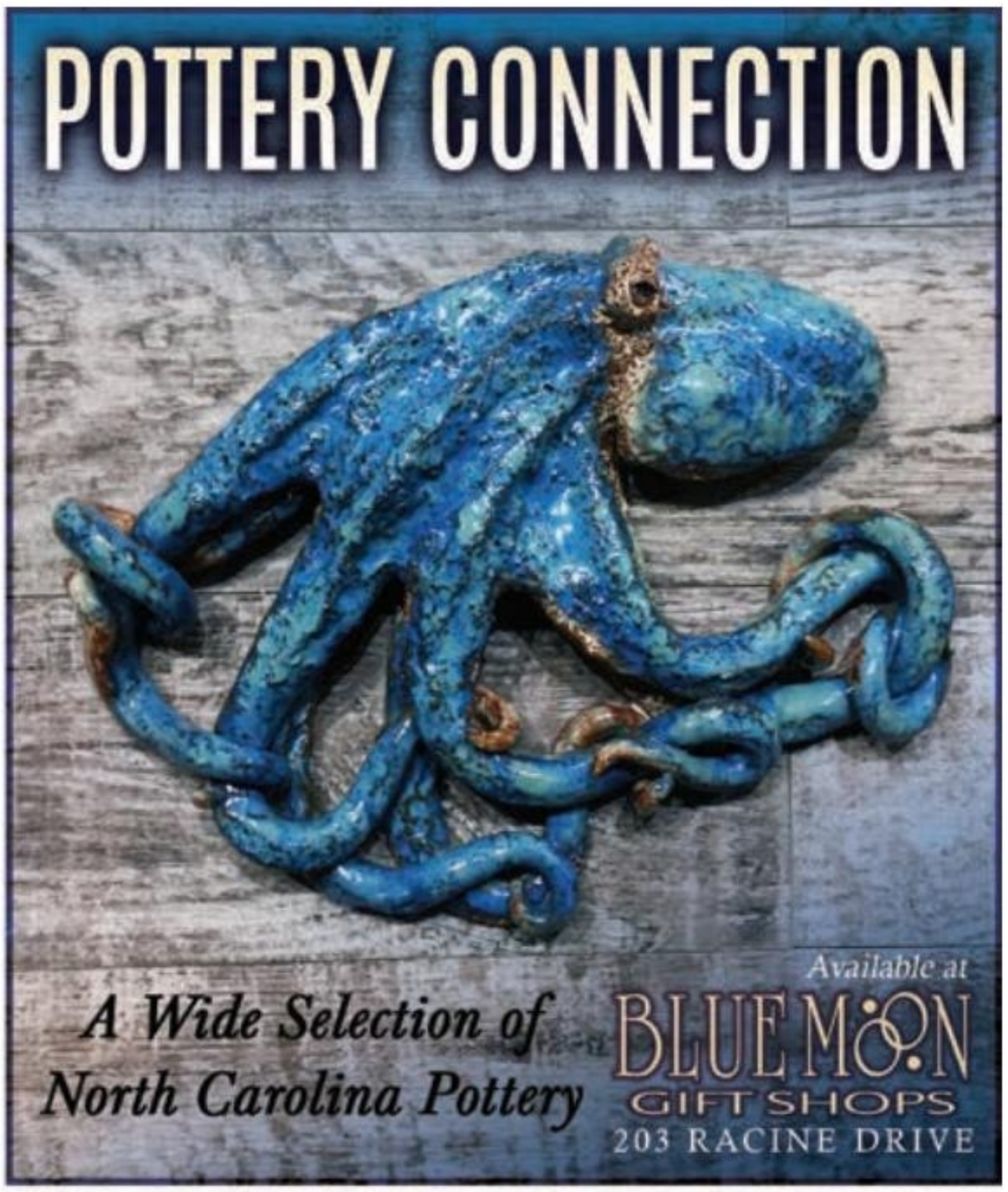
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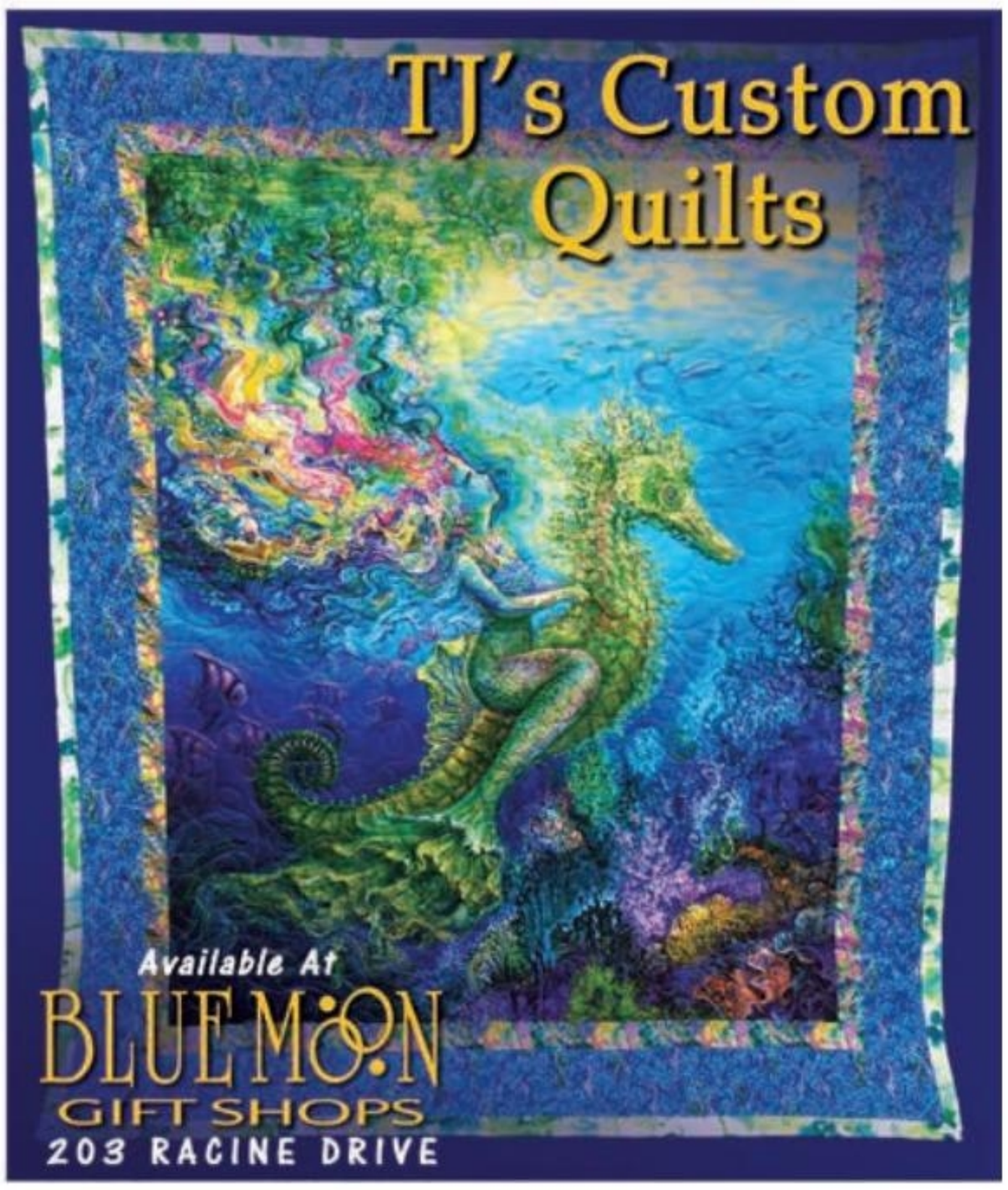
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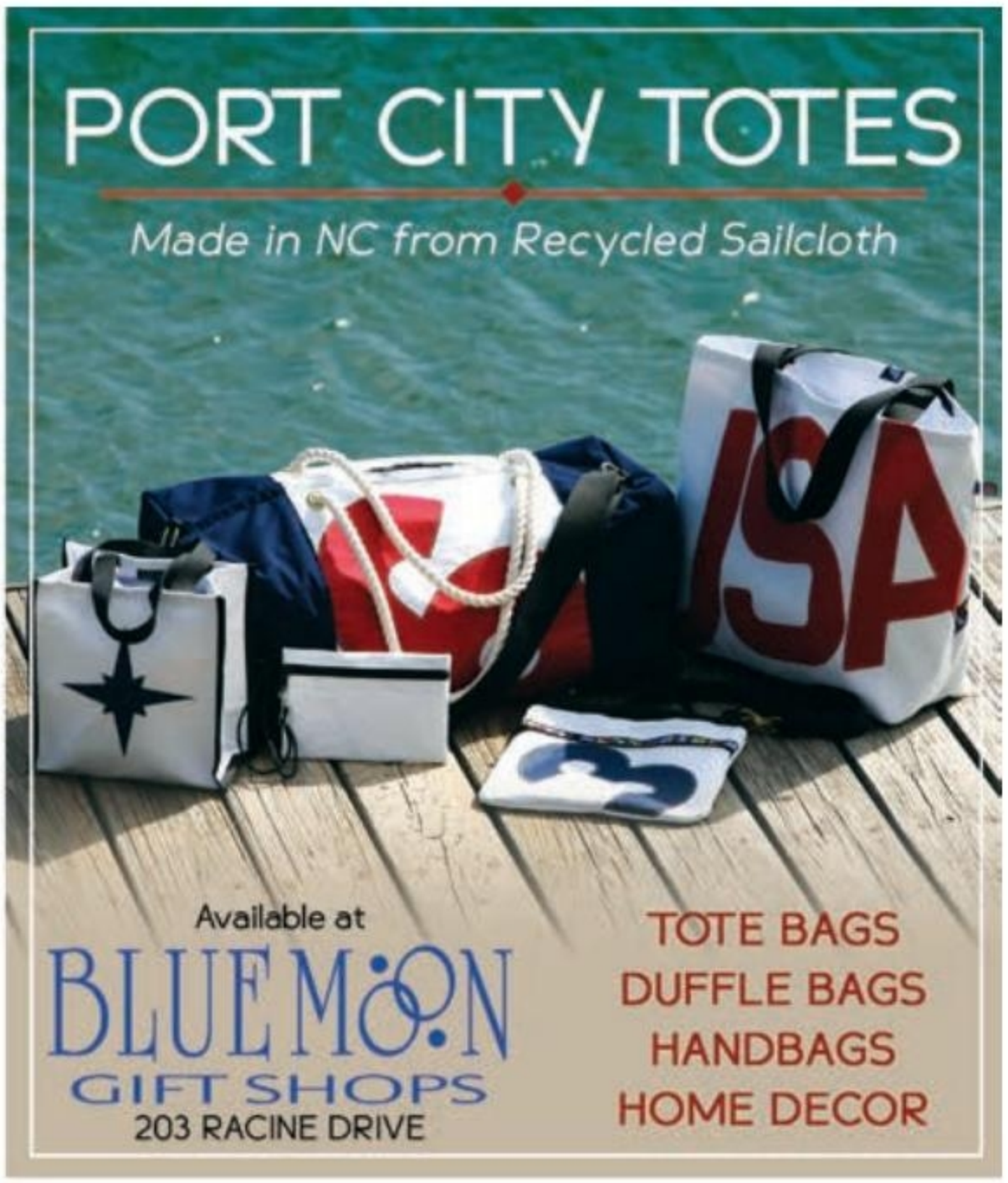
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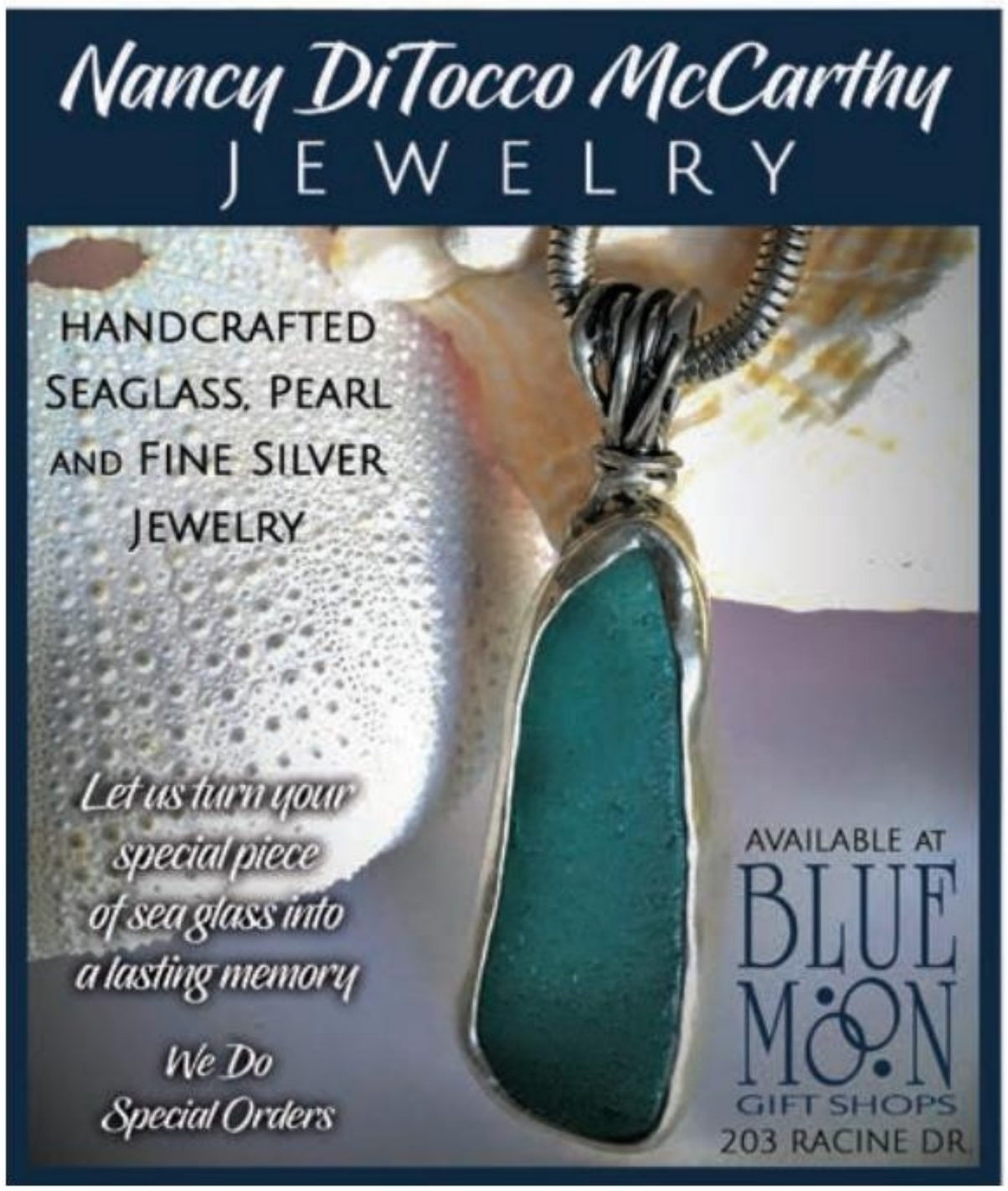
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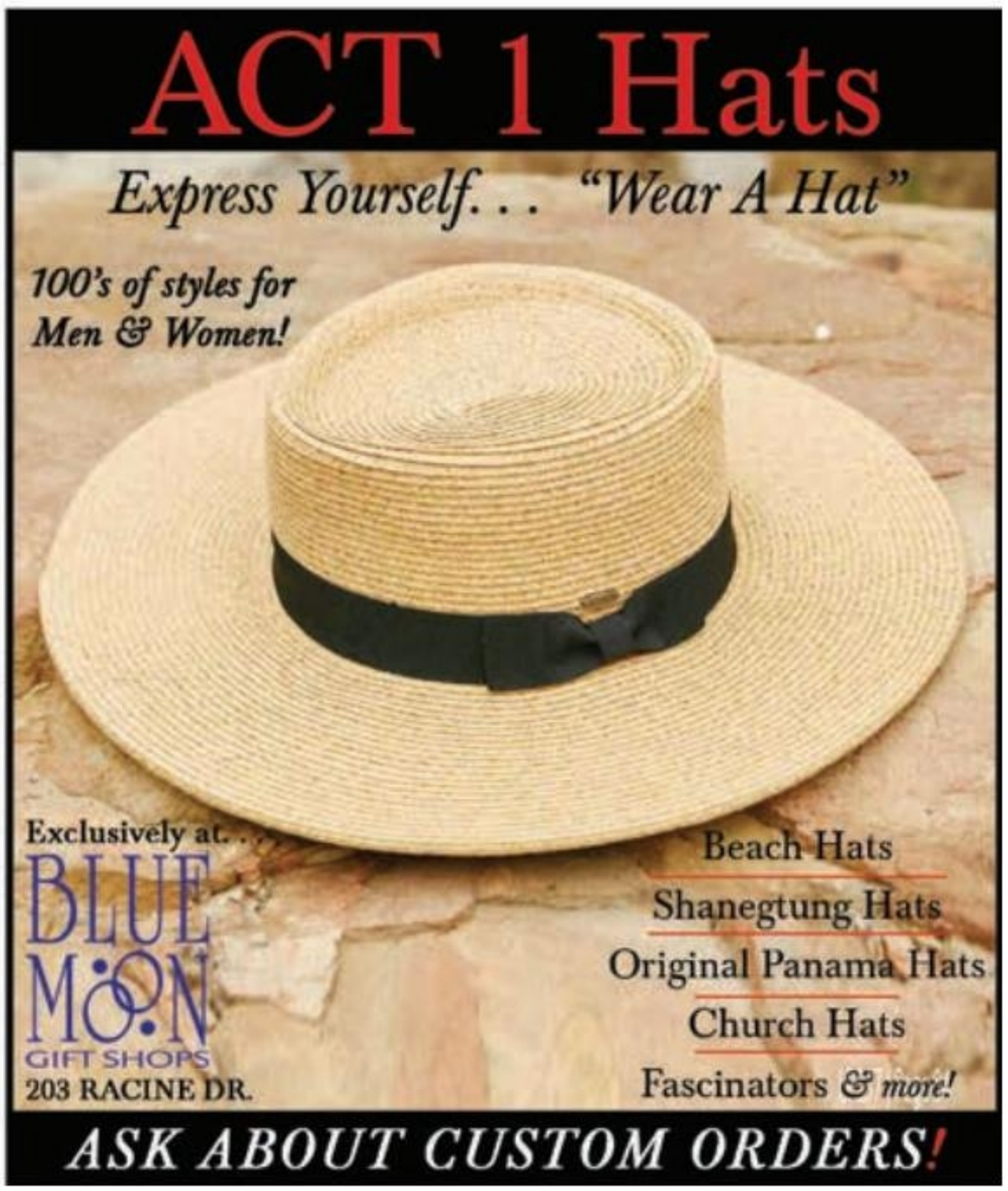
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Stormy Weather

After withstanding decades of hurricanes, Wilmington's Blockade Runner is ready to defy the odds once more

By Jim Dodson

On October 10 of last year, Hurricane Michael made landfall on the panhandle of Florida packing sustained winds of 160 mph, a storm verging on Category 5 that entered the record books as the third strongest hurricane on record. After fully devastating Mexico Beach, Michael churned toward the Carolinas as a tropical storm over the next two days, claiming 54 lives from Florida to Virginia, causing $25 billion in property damage.

On the afternoon Michael arrived in North Carolina, I watched on my iPhone weather app as the storm spread its mayhem over Charlotte and took some comfort that the winds and rain were expected to diminish to 30 mph tropical gusts by the time the storm reached the Triad.

The winds and rain arrived on schedule around 3 p.m. Since we live in a neighborhood filled with century-old hardwoods, I stepped outside to see how our elderly trees were handling the winds after one of the wettest autumns on record.

The winds suddenly increased and something blew off my roof with a clatter. It turned out to be a chimney cap, airlifted halfway across our front yard. As I walked over to pick it up, keeping an eye on the churning treetops, things got even crazier. I heard what sounded remarkably like an oncoming freight train and turned around just in time to see the peak of our neighbor's roof vanish beneath what appeared to be a madly swirling cloud. Having once been dangerously close to a large tornado, I wasn't anxious to repeat the experience.

I headed straight inside to chase wife and dogs to the basement but suddenly remembered that I'd left the door to my home office over the garage standing ajar. Like one of those Russian babushkas who insisted on sweeping her stoop before evacuating the Chernobyl nuclear site, I foolishly bolted out the back door even as my phone began shrieking a weather alarm to take shelter immediately.

Taking two steps at once, I reached the top of the garage steps just as the large wooden electrical pole at the rear of our property, bearing a major transformer and various cable lines, snapped like a twig and flew past me like the witch from *The Wizard of Oz*, crashing into our backyard with a vivid explosion of sparks. For several seconds, I stood there stunned by what I'd seen . . . until I had the good sense to turn around bolt for the basement.

What turned out to be a microburst or tornado, spawned by the fury of Michael's tropical remnants, knocked over half a dozen ancient trees along our street and plunged the neighborhood into darkness for more than a week. We were among the fortunate ones, though. Our generator came on, and chainsaws came out and neighbors began appearing outside to help assess the damage and begin the cleanup process. Several folks on the street suffered major damage from trees that toppled directly onto their houses, but fortunately there we no serious injuries on our side of town.

My thoughtful neighbor Ken, who lives across the street and had a massive oak take out his center chimney and new second-floor bathroom renovation, shook his head and said it best. "Incredible, isn't it? Nature's power always seems to have the final word."

A few weeks ago, I mentioned this frightening scenario and Ken's comment to Bill Baggett as we sat together in a newly renovated room on the top floor of the historic Blockade Runner Hotel at Wrightsville Beach. Baggett, 72, simply smiled.

"Nature's fury has the only word," he added.

With the first of June looming — the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season that lasts until November 30 — Baggett and his sister Mary, who jointly own and operate arguably the most beloved and well-known hotel on the North Carolina coast, are something akin to experts on the fickle fury of hurricanes and the unpredictable damage they leave in their aftermath.

Since their family purchased the Blockade Runner from its original

owner, Lawrence Lewis of Richmond, Virginia, in 1971, the Baggetts — who assumed operational management of the property in 1984 — have ridden out half a dozen major Atlantic hurricanes and several near misses while hunkered down inside their cozy seaside hotel. Their legacy began with Hurricane Diana in 1984 and continued through last September's Hurricane Florence, the sea monster that preceded Michael and turned Wilmington and much of Eastern North Carolina into a vast world of water, marooning the Port City for weeks.

In 1984, Diana blew out the hotel's old-style windows and flooded the ground floor of the hotel with wind-driven rain. "Structurally the hotel was fine. It's made of reinforced industrial concrete." Baggett recalled that the worst thing that happened was that the covering for the air vents blew off, allowing rain to flood rooms and public spaces, while destroying plaster walls and ceilings "The hotel was soaked, a real mess, physically and legally," he said.

When the Baggetts declined to accept their insurance company's insufficient payout of just $12,000 to cover the extensive damages, they took their case to court, enlisting an expert witness in the person of a retired meteorologist from the Miami Hurricane Center named Robert Simpson, for whom the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane scale is named. His testimony resulted in a more satisfactory settlement — and a new insurance company going forward.

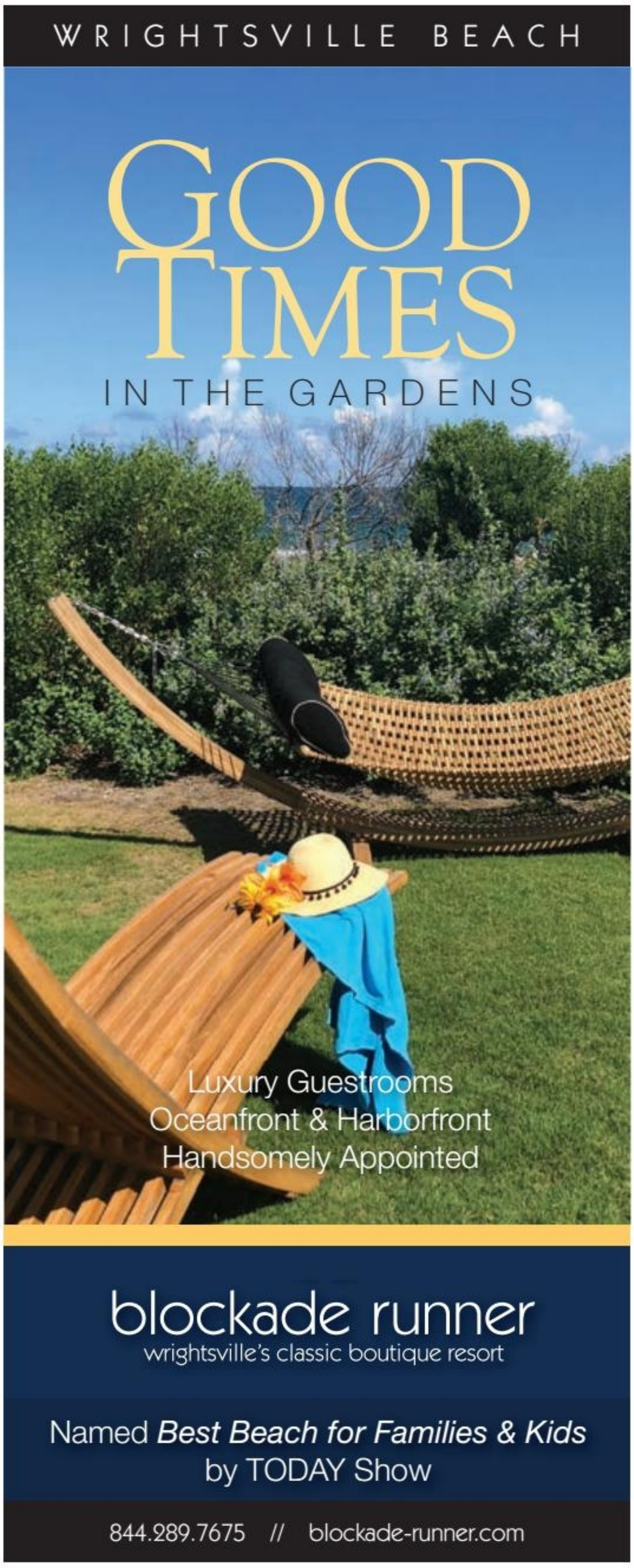
Three hurricanes in quick succession followed within a decade. Hurricanes Fran (September 1996; 27 fatalities, $5 billion total damage), Bonnie (August 1998, no fatalities but 950,000 people evacuated from the Carolinas, total damage: $1 billion) and Floyd (September 1999, extensive flooding, 76 fatalities, $6.5 billion in total damage) tested the moxie of the Baggetts and their stout lodging. In 1989, even Hurricane Hugo took a passing swipe that blew out Blockade Runner's windows but otherwise left the property unscathed.

"Fran was pretty bad," Baggett recalled. "It took a typical path up the Cape Fear and right over the top, sucking up water from both sides of the hotel — the ocean on one side, the sound on the other. For a while, it was like being in an aquarium," he allowed with a laugh. "There were six of us in the hotel that night — Mary and myself, one of our cooks and several maintenance folks. Around 11 p.m., the window wall blew out and the water came rushing in, ruining carpets and floors. It was a long night but really the damage in that instance was fortunately fairly minimal. The hotel itself was fine."

In Fran's aftermath, in fact, emergency crews from the Red Cross, power companies and relief agencies billeted at the Blockade Runner, which was up and running in a matter of days. "The real issue," Baggett explained, "was that Fran did serious damage to docks along the sound — prompting fears that the annual Flotilla might be cancelled. Fortunately, everyone worked hard to get the island back in shape and the event came off."

For her part, Hurricane Bonnie looked fearsome but passed over relatively quickly, moving so swiftly she only took a portion of the Blockade Runner's roof.

Floyd, however, brought rain on a Biblical scale that flooded numerous towns across the Eastern portions of the state, killing livestock and damaging crops. But once again, with its new roof, the Blockade Runner was updated and "hurricane ready," as Bill Baggett put it. When Hurricane Matthew banged along the entire east coast in early



October of 2016, the hotel barely noticed its passing.

And then, last September, came Florence — a Cat-4 monster that brought new levels of devastation to Wilmington and surrounding region.

"We were a little concerned that she was predicted to come ashore as a Cat-4 hurricane, but we planned to stay in the hotel and ride it out regardless," said Hurricane Bill Baggett. "I mean, where would we evacuate to — some stick-built motel on the mainland? This hotel is made from industrial reinforced concrete. Besides, by the time the hurricane was on top of us, the only real concern we had — besides water — was the wind."

By the time Florence rolled over Wrightsville Beach early on Friday morning, September 14, wind shear had weakened the storm to Category 1, wind gusting to 105 mph, which was still sufficient to take out the roof of the Blockade Runner's balcony and soak some of the hotel's premium seaside suites.

The major problem with Florence was a record high storm surge of 10 to 13 feet at high tide and the volume of rain. Over two days the storm stalled and lingered over the region, dumping more than 45 inches of rain in places — including on top of the hotel — downing thousands of power lines and trees, making Florence the wettest tropical cyclone to ever hit the Carolinas.

"We lost vents again and had water in some of our tunnels," Baggett told me, "but for the most part we were in better shape than most people around us." Because of their working partnership with BELFOR, the property damage specialists who work across the country, response teams were on the site within a day, bringing emergency fuel that allowed the hotel to operate its three large cooling generators and drying machines.

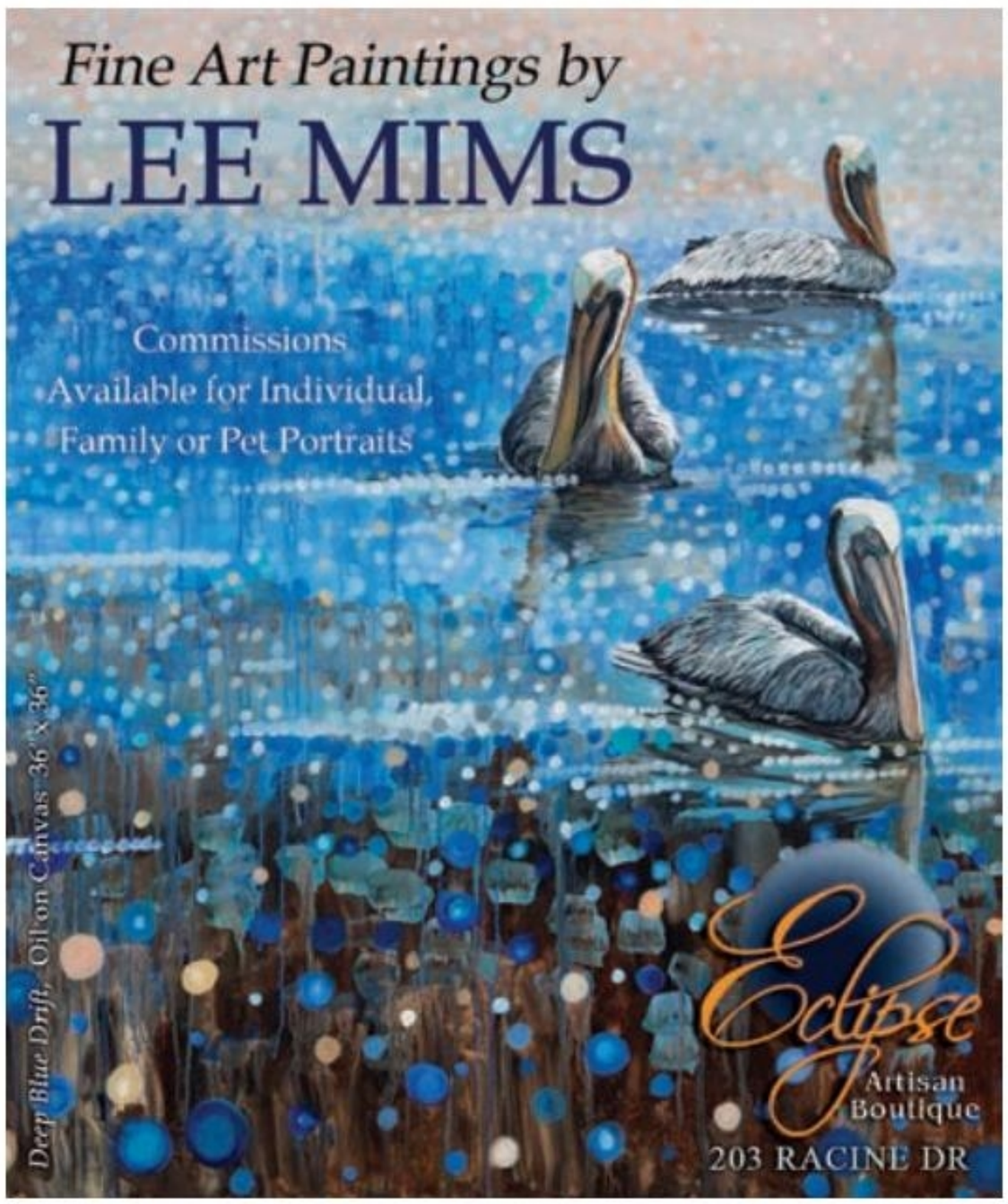
In the aftermath of Florence, much of Wilmington was underwater for the next two weeks, as were numerous towns and cities across Eastern North Carolina.

Fifty-seven deaths were attributed to the storm, and $24 billion in damages to property in North Carolina alone, more than the cost of Matthew and Floyd combined.

As many have done in the wake of Florence, in the process of repairing the damage to their hotel balcony suites, the Baggetts decided to undertake a comprehensive renovation of their landmark hotel, enlisting designer Terry Allred to give the property a fresh new tropical look from top to bottom. The extensive $11 million redo, which includes makeovers of every guest room, dining room and public spaces, is ready to welcome longtime customers and perhaps a new generation of beachcombers to the hotel just as a new summer vacation season dawns.

"Hurricanes are amazingly unpredictable things," Bill Baggett mused as he showed me through the bright new suites on the balcony floor. "It's a new roll of the dice every time one of those storms comes out of the Caribbean. But with a jewel like this, Mary and I feel like we are stewards of the hotel. It's been a pleasure to try and improve it over the years, regardless of whatever comes at us from the sea." He paused and smiled. "One thing for sure. When the next one comes, we'll still be here in the hotel."

Contact Editor Jim Dodson at jim@thepilot.com.



SaltWorks

It's the Berries

The North Carolina Blueberry Festival will take place in historic downtown Burgaw, and berries are just the beginning. Among the highlights: a whole-hog BBQ cookoff, a beer and wine garden, the Tour de Blueberry Bike ride, the Jones Sisters Band, a 5K run and 1K walk, car and truck and model train shows . . . and the list goes on. Blueberry lovers will find pies galore as well as fresh berries from local farms and a blueberry recipe contest. More than 30,000 people attended last year's festival — plan to spend the day. Admission: Free. June 14 and 15. Friday, 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Downtown Burgaw, US 17 Business and Wilmington Street. For info: ncblueberryfestival.com.

The Blues Have It

The 24th annual Cape Fear Blues Festival features the region's finest bluesmen and women jamming the day away. This year's events include a blues workshop at Finkelstein's downtown and an outdoor afternoon blues jam under the tent at the Rusty Nail. Food and drinks will be available. Bring your lawn chair! Featured acts include Scott Ellison Band, the Rhythm Bones, the Fat Bastard Blues Band and Catesby Jones. Evening performance by the Nashville-based Mike Hayes Band. June 21-23. Various locations. For tickets and info: (910) 350-8822 or capefearblues.org.

Harp And Soul

The Wilmington Symphony Orchestra presents the Masterworks Concert "Strings & Harp," an evening that features the talented harpists Christina Brier and Kathryn Sloat, otherwise known as Lilac 94. As the *Star-News* noted, these are not your grandmother's harpists: "Brier and Sloat hit their soundboards, pound their harps with mallets, slap their strings, and generally make a ruckus." Lilac 94 will perform Karl Jenkins' *Over the Stone* and Rachmaninoff's romantic work *Symphony No. 2*. Tickets: $17-$47. June 2, 5 p.m. Wilson Center, 703 N. Third St., Wilmington. For info: (910) 362-7999 or cfcc.edu.

Fins Up!

Come root for the home team as the Wilmington Sharks take on the Fayetteville Swamp Dogs. It's a special Jaws-N-Paws night, so all dogs are welcome for a night of great baseball. Tickets: $7-$11. June 10, 7:05 p.m. Buck Hardie Field-Legion Sports Complex, 2149 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington. For info: wilmingtonsharks.com.

A Bird's-Eye View

The Wrightsville Beach Bird Stewards will host an Audubon Bird Walk at the south end of Wrightsville Beach, where more than 200 black skinners, seven American oystercatchers, and 25 lease terns have visited recently to look for suitable nesting areas. Stewards will provide spotting scopes. Admission to the walk is free, but there is a parking fee. June 10, 9 a.m. Wrightsville Beach Public Access No. 43, Jack Parker Blvd., Wrightsville Beach.

Port City Music Festival

The Port City Music Festival's mission is to "provide great music that is accessible to all" — and the 11th annual edition fulfills this promise. This year's offerings include orchestral works by Franz Schubert, Victor Herbert's *Three Pieces for Cello and Piano*, and a performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Telephone*. On Saturday, June 8, there will be a Rising Stars Masterclass concert. Admission: Free. June 3-9. Various locations throughout Wilmington. See website for details. For info: (910) 239-9450 or portcitymusicfestival.org.

A Walk Through Black History

Historian Imam Abdul Rahman Shareef will lead a 2-mile Black History Hike through downtown Wilmington. Departing from the MLK Center, the group will visit such important sites as the Gregory Congregational Church — an important meeting place for the Wilmington Ten — and the Williston Normal School on 10th Street. Admission: Free. Registration required. June 6, 10 a.m. MLK Jr Community Center, 401 S. 8th St., Wilmington. For info: (910) 254-0907 or tinyurl.com/y3lsnhps.

Shagadelic

The Pleasure Island Chamber of Commerce presents the 34th annual Carolina Beach Music Festival, one of the longest-running beachfront celebrations in the country. You can shag away the day to the music of three different beach music bands: Band of Oz, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; the Black Water Rhythm & Blues Band, 1-2:30 p.m.; and Jim Quick and Coastline from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets: $25-$30. June 1, 10 a.m. Carolina Beach Boardwalk, Cape Fear Blvd., Carolina Beach. For info: (910) 458-8434 or pleasureislandnc.org.

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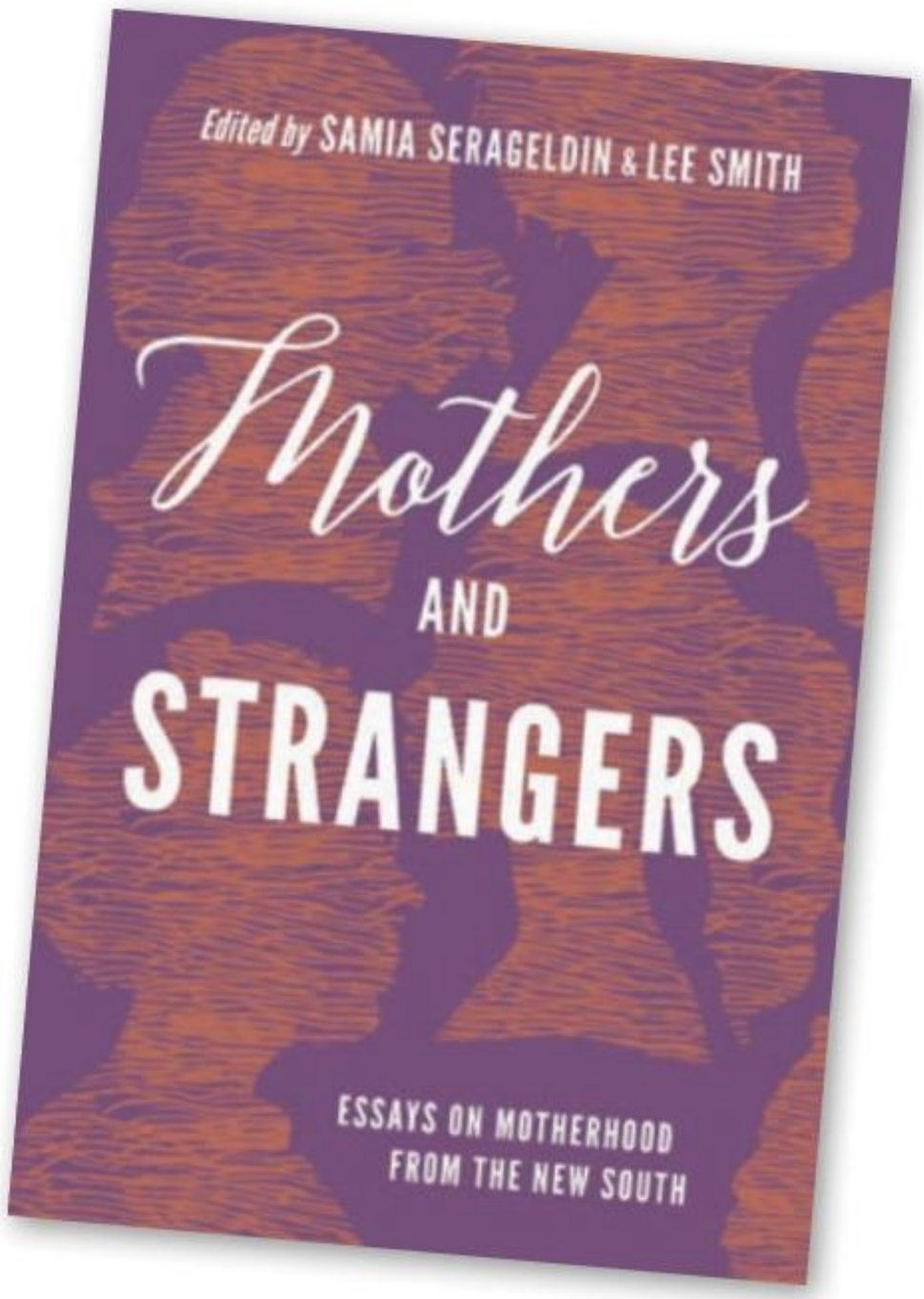
The Mothers of Invention

A peek inside the private lives of writers



By D.G. Martin

How much impact do mothers of great authors have on their children's writings?

Ask Daniel Wallace, creative writing professor at UNC-Chapel Hill and author of the humorous and poignant *Big Fish*.

In a new book, *Mothers and Strangers: Essays on Motherhood from the New South*, edited by North Carolina writers Lee Smith and Samia Serageldin, Wallace writes about his mother.

"My mother was twelve years old the first time she got married; her husband seventeen. This is how she told it, anyway, over and over again how she was married when she was twelve, and her husband's name was John Stephens, and they ran off together to Columbiana, Alabama, where they found a judge who would marry them."

As Wallace explains, his mother, Joan, and John were at a community swimming pool, and "with the crazy logic of two kids who were in love and in the grip of some uncontrollable hormones — trying to find any way to be together, to have sex with each other and make it right, make it okay somehow — they decided to get married, And they decided to get married that very day. Still in their bathing suits . . . "

Joan set out, writes Wallace, "not to live as man and wife with John, because that wasn't going to happen, but to have sex as a newly married couple might: with a feral eagerness. But 'legally,' and with the unintentional blessing of her mother. Where they had sex is unclear to me — my mother just said 'everywhere they could' — and they continued thusly until somehow my grandparents found out about it and had the marriage annulled. 'It was a summer marriage,' she said."

Wallace's mom told this story to everyone. "It was the perfect story," Wallace writes, "because it cut to the chase of the kind of woman my mother was and who she always had been: defiant, sexual, shocking."

Wallace says he got his "oversharing" storytelling gifts from her.

"She was a great storyteller, and much more creative than I ever gave her credit for. Because what I came to learn after a little bit of sleuthing, is that it wasn't really true, this story she told. It didn't happen like this at all."

You will have to read Wallace's entire essay to get something closer to the real truth. But even before we get to that point we can ask, why did Wallace's mom lie about this story? Wallace tries to answer, "We learn more about people through the lies they tell than we do from the truths they share. I think this is why I became a fiction writer in the first place. It's how I was raised."

Thank goodness. Otherwise, we would have missed *Big Fish*, *Extraordinary Adventures*, and Wallace's four other imagination-filled novels.

Wallace's essay is just one of 28 about authors' mothers collected by Smith and Serageldin in *Mothers and Strangers*. The contributors, all respected authors, include Wallace, Belle Boggs, Marshall Chapman, Hal Crowther, Clyde Edgerton, Marianne Gingher, Jaki Shelton Green, Sally Greene, Stephanie Elizondo Griest, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, Eldridge "Redge" Hanes, Lynden Harris, Randall Kenan, Phillip Lopate, Michael Malone, Frances Mayes, Jill McCorkle, Melody Moezzi, Elaine Neil Orr, Steven Petrow, Margaret Rich, Omid Safi, James Seay, Alan Shapiro, Bland Simpson, Sharon K. Swanson and, of course, the two editors.

In comments about the book, Smith emphasizes that the relationships and experiences between mothers and children are varied. Each is unique. She explains, "America's traditional Hallmark conception of Motherhood (note the caps) takes a real beating in these essays. The whole idea of motherhood is hampered by the stereotypes and preconceptions associated with it — mothers are selfless, right? Automatically loving and giving and happy with their biological and limited role,

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making biscuits from scratch and sewing all our clothes, yadayada. Almost nobody had a mother like that."

Then she confesses, "Except me, I guess. Actually, my own sweet mother really did all these things, though she suffered terribly from depression when she quit teaching, which she had loved, to 'stay home and take care of you.'"

In the book's foreword Smith explains, "She sent me down to visit my lovely Aunt Gay-Gay in Birmingham, Alabama, every summer for two weeks of honest-to-God Lady Lessons. Here I'd learn to wear white gloves, sit up straight, and walk in little Cuban heels. I'd learn proper table manners, which would then be tested by fancy lunches at 'The Club' on top of Shades Mountain. I'd learn the rules: 'A lady does not point. A lady eats before the party. A lady never lets a silence fall. A lady does not sit *like that!*'"

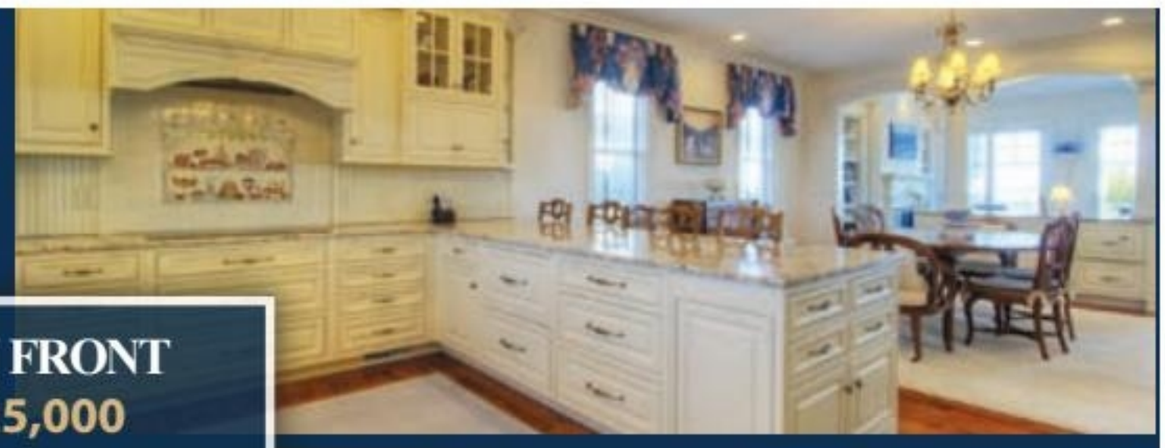
Smith's description of her feelings for her loving parents and traditional upbringing will not surprise her fans, who have come to admire the loving respect with which Smith treats the main characters of her novels and short stories.

Jill McCorkle's mother had a full-time job as a secretary while other mothers "were staying home and doing the June Cleaver thing." McCorkle never felt slighted. She marvels at how her mother and her postal worker dad "owned a home and sent two children to college and faithfully tithed to the church."

"Of course," she continues, "the answer to that question is that they did without a lot for themselves."

Her latest book, *Life After Life*, is set in a nursing-retirement home, where some residents are struggling with dementia. In her essay, she describes her mother's current dementia. Most often she does not recognize her daughter. McCorkle writes, "If there is a sliver of grace to be pulled from the gnarled up tangle of dementia, it is that little bit of time given to loved ones to fully appreciate the scope of a whole life while the individual is still there and breathing and every now and then, for the briefest second, visible."

Other writers describe different experiences with their mothers. Serageldin grew up in a prominent Egyptian family that was put into a stressful situation after the 1952 revolu-



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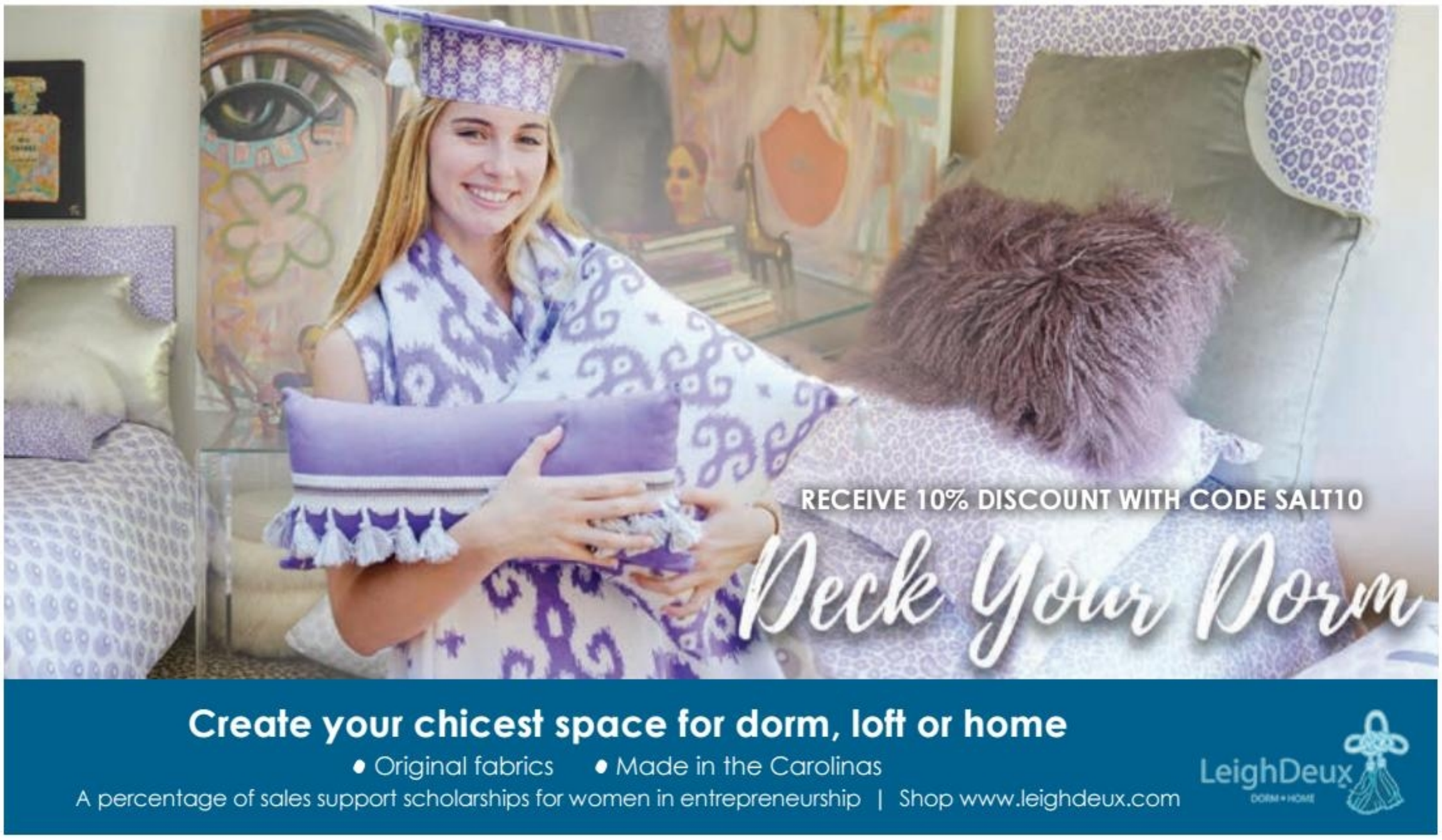
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tion. Threatened confiscation and arrests were part of the picture, but "she colluded with her mother's pretense of normality, sensing that the illusion was more for the adult's sake."

Clyde Edgerton's mother, Truma, was born to sharecropper parents who worked land in what is now the Umstead State Park near the Raleigh-Durham airport. When her father died, the family moved to Durham, taking a cow with them. When she was 12 years old, she went to work in a hosiery mill. Edgerton writes, "To my knowledge she never considered her upbringing to be in any way adverse."

Edgerton lists some of her habits: "She'd never waste water. If she turned on a faucet for warm water, she'd collect the water that was getting warm and use it to water plants.

"She loved to listen to and tell and laugh about family stories — often the same ones over and over. Those stories were among my most special inheritances."

Clyde says that Truma and her two sisters raised him.

He includes sections from his second novel, *Walking Across Egypt*, that are based on his mother. Then he writes, "That's my mother. I wish you could have known her in person as I did. I think of her almost every day. I know I find solace in natural things, simple things — like trees, flowers, and birds — because of her inspired example of embracing and finding pleasure in the simple free gifts the earth provides . . . She never guessed that the son she hoped would be a concert pianist or a missionary would end up writing 'talk' for a living."

These essays and all of the others are readers' treasures. Short, written crisply by some of the region's best authors, each one gives an inside look at the writer's private life and how the mother faced and dealt with different sets of challenges, ones that have, for better or worse, helped make the writings of each author what they are today.

D.G. Martin hosts North Carolina Bookwatch *Sunday at 11 a.m. and Tuesday at 5 p.m. on UNC-TV. The program also airs on the North Carolina Channel Tuesday at 8 p.m. To view prior programs go to: http://video.unctv.org/show/nc-bookwatch/episodes/.*

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One Man's Good Advice

Clyde Edgerton and the art of negotiation

By Wiley Cash · Photographs by Mallory Cash

In 2011, my wife and I were living in West Virginia when I learned that my first novel was going to be published. My editor asked me to reach out to any well-known authors I knew to see if they would offer a blurb for the book jacket. The problem? I didn't know many well-known authors, so I began sleuthing for email addresses. Clyde Edgerton's was one of the first I found. I wrote to him and told him that I, like him, was a North Carolina native who had written a North Carolina novel, and I wondered if he would be willing to give it a read and consider offering some kind words. He not only read my novel and offered some kind words that ended up on the front of the hardcover, he offered some criticism as well. There was one particular scene in the novel that he felt went on a little too long, and he suggested some edits. I made the edits; they were the last I made before the novel went to print, and they improved the novel in ways I never could have imagined. I had never met Clyde Edgerton. I had never been one of his students. He was just being kind, giving more of his time and talent than I ever expected.

DRINKING WITH WRITERS

Clyde's kindness and giving of time continued in the spring of 2012 when he appeared at Pomegranate Books in Wilmington, North Carolina, to attend one of the first events of my book tour. I had not expected him to be there, and it was a little like shooting free throws while Michael Jordan watched from the stands, but I will never forget how deeply honored I felt. At the conclusion of that event, I spoke a little about a new novel that I was working on, and I expressed the difficulty I was having with the ending. A few days later, I received an email from Clyde, sharing his ideas about how to end novels in ways that satisfied both writers and readers.

Clyde and I struck up a friendship after my wife and I moved back to North Carolina and settled in Wilmington in 2013. He christened our second child. Our kids go to the same school. We have shared the stage with other authors at literary events and fundraisers around the South, and over the past few months we have fallen into a routine of eating omelets and biscuits and gravy and sharing sliced tomatoes in a booth at White Front Breakfast House at the corner of Market and 16th Street.

That was where we were sitting recently when I sought Clyde's advice about a particularly difficult ethical situation I was facing in my professional life. Aside from the respect I have for Clyde as a writer, it is exceeded only by my respect for him as a citizen and altruist. After asking for his advice, Clyde shared some wisdom he had gleaned from a local reverend, friend and ally named Dante Murphy.

"Don't get angry at people in these situations," he said. "When it becomes personal that anger can poison you. Get angry at institutions. You can change an institution. It's harder to change a person."

Clyde knows what he is talking about. For the past few years he has been one of a handful of citizens leading the charge to uncover racial inequities in the New Hanover County School System, something he first encountered while tutoring students at Forest Hills Elementary. The school had a Spanish language immersion program, and while the student body was 46 percent

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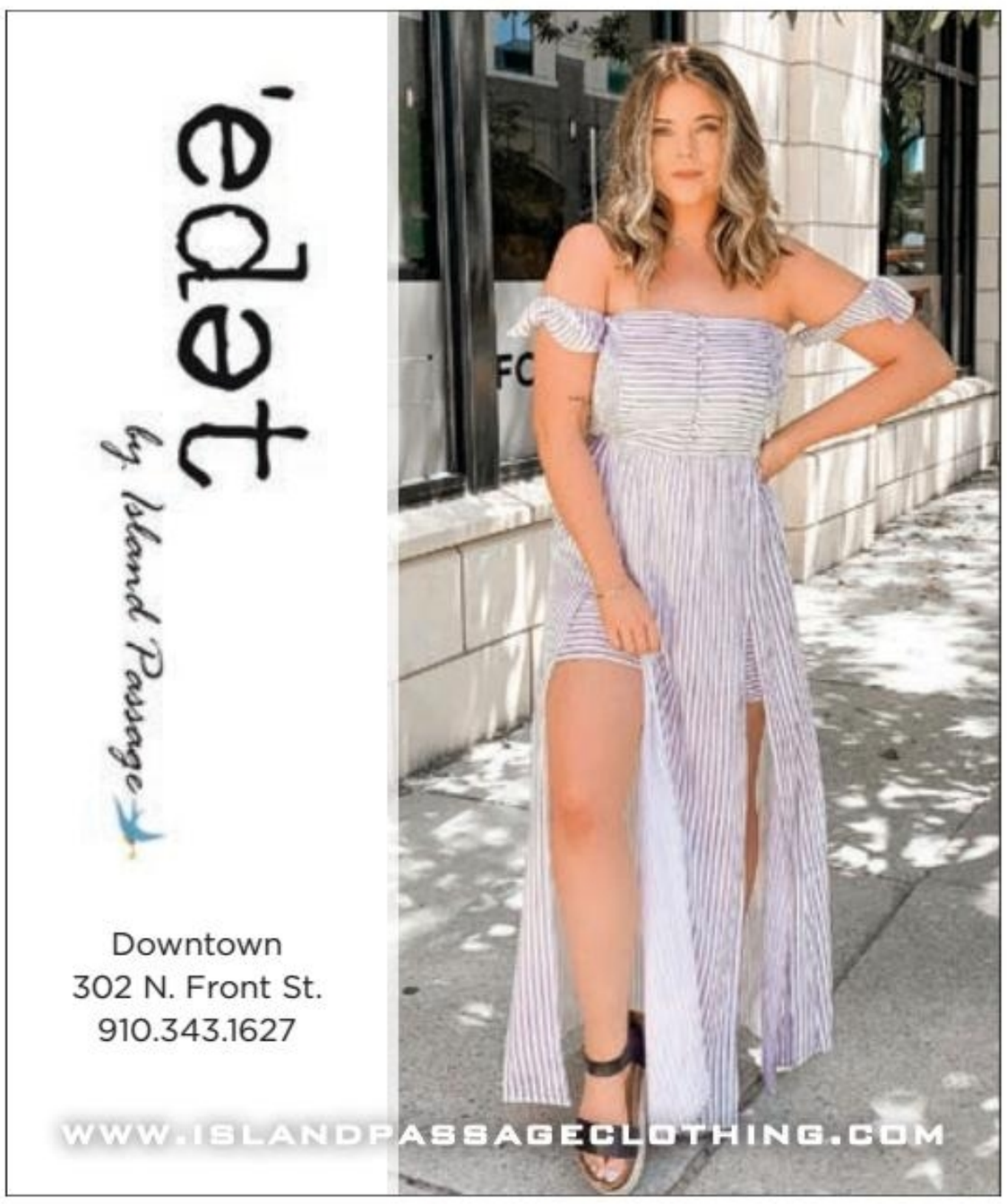
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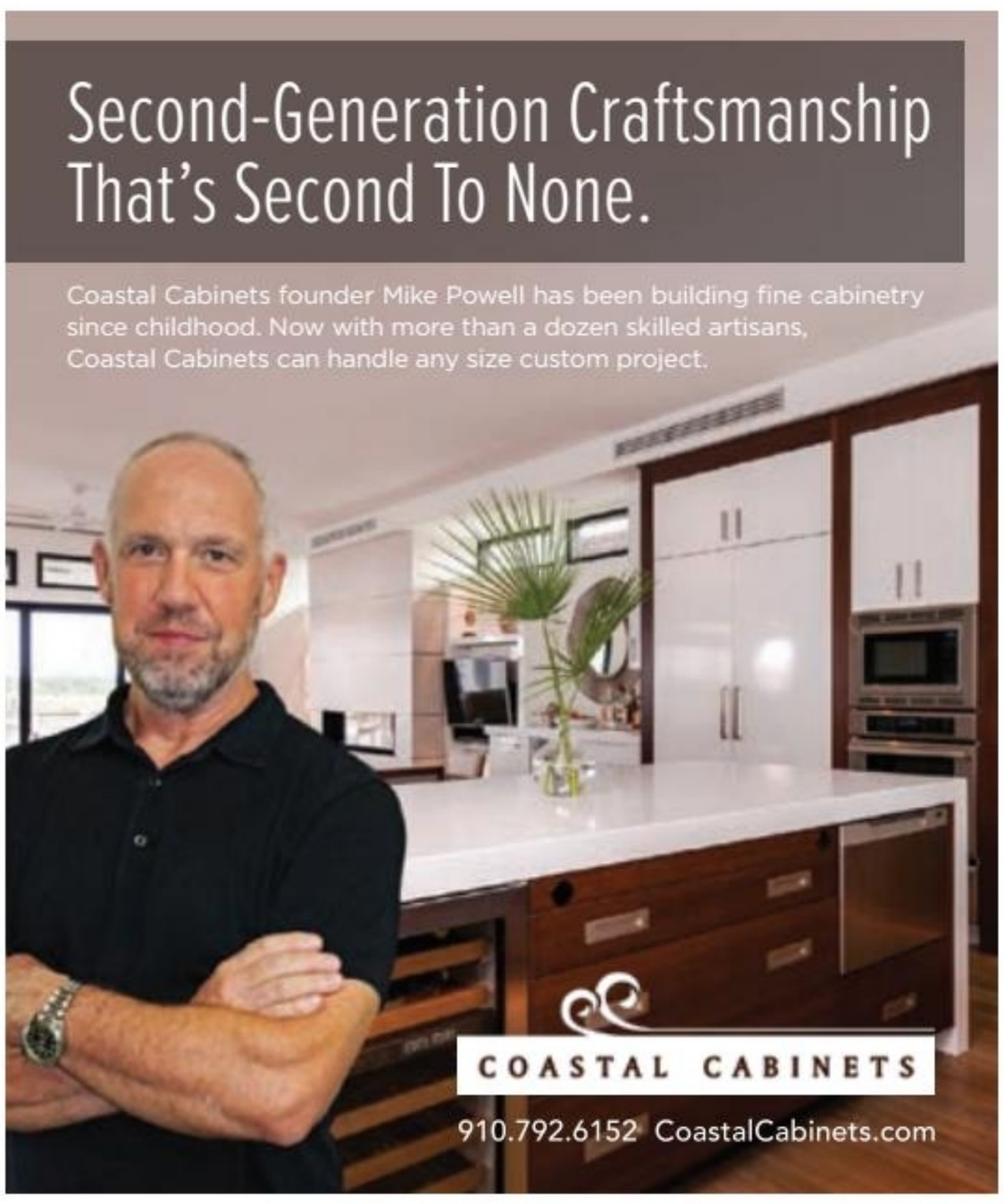

African-American, every single one of the 40 slots in the language program had been taken by white students before open enrollment even began. Since then, the former principal and school system have given a number of excuses — some laughable, some offensive — about the racial disparity in the program. None of it has deterred Clyde and a group of citizens from following leads, learning of other instances of discrimination or wrongdoing, and meeting with parents, school board members and city and county employees.

None of the students on whose behalf Clyde is working have ever met him. They are not his children, but he is working for them regardless. It is similar to the compassion and care he showed me all those years ago, but the kindness he showed me never got him banned from county school property.

How does Clyde address these issues with school leaders? The same way he approaches finding a satisfying conclusion to a piece of fiction he is writing.

"Some writers think that story comes from conflict," he says. "I don't think that's always true. Conflict can be impassable, and there's no story with an impasse. I think good stories come from negotiation. Good stories happen when everyone can see they have a stake in a good outcome."

For a good outcome, whether in a community or a novel or a literary friendship, negotiation is key. Clyde, please pass the sliced tomatoes.

Wiley Cash lives in Wilmington with his wife and their two daughters. His latest novel, The Last Ballad, *is available wherever books are sold.*

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Two for the Road

For Jan and Steve Capps, every day was a pilgrim's progress

By Dana Sachs

Last year, you two walked 200 miles of the famed pilgrim trail Camino de Santiago in Spain. That's a long walk, but this September you're planning to go back and spend six weeks hiking an even longer portion of the trail — 485 miles through France and Spain. What is the Camino de Santiago?

Jan: It's called "the way of St. James." According to the story, St. James was responsible for spreading Christianity to the Iberian Peninsula. After his martyrdom, his remains were buried in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Since that time, people have walked this path as a pilgrimage in remembrance of St. James, but also for other reasons, ranging from deeply personal to exercise and fun.

What made you decide to do it?

Jan: I had seen the movie *The Way* with Martin Sheen. I just loved the movie, and I thought the trek would be great exercise. Then I heard that Bill Anlyan, from Wilmington, had done it. I asked him to tell me about it. And he kept having people say, "I'd like to do it." So he planned a group trip.
Steve: It ended up being 18 of us.
Jan: And I pretty much dragged Steve along with me.
Steve: That's an accurate description. One of us had really low expectations about this trip.

Did you ever have any moments of thinking, "What have I gotten myself into here?"

Jan: The first day was awful.
Steve: Horrible. We trekked 24 miles. You read, "Don't overdo the first day." Well, we violated Rule No. 1.
Jan: It was flat. It was dusty. It was hot. It was not pretty. And it was 24 miles.
Steve: One of our companions on the trip said, "I've walked through hay fields in Georgia that look better than this."

So what were you thinking at the end of that day?

Steve: That it was probably the dumbest thing that I'd ever signed up for. We could have walked from Wilmington to Greensboro and accomplished the same thing. I suggested that we call it "The Camino de Burgaw."

Something must have changed. You're planning to do it again, and walk more than twice as far.

Steve: I did start to like it. You get into a rhythm and you know what your purpose is for the day. You know where you're going, what you're going to do. You don't necessarily know what you're going to see, but you know you're going to get up, dress, you take care of your feet. You pack up, make sure you've got your water. It becomes a great rhythm.

Jan: And, to me, there was another rhythm — because you really are by yourself a lot — and it's the rhythm of your foot, your foot, your pole, your pole. Foot, pole, foot, pole.

How old are you two?

Steve: 58
Jan: 65

Had you ever done anything like that before?

Steve: We were accustomed to less strenuous trips.
Jan: And that was part of the impetus. We went on a more standard tour and spent time on a number of tour buses. I remember saying, "You know what? I'm going to reach a point in my life where if I want to travel I'm going to be sitting on a lot of buses. But I don't have to be in the bus yet."

What were the days like, as you hiked?

Jan: Mostly, we were walking in the countryside where there are beautiful vistas, a lot of agricultural areas, crops, cows, working farms. You'll wait for cows to cross the road sometimes. Fog can creep in if you start walking early enough. Every day is different, and there is some vista that is beautiful every day. Well, almost every day. There were large cities like Leon, which is a bustling city of over 100,000 people with a fabulous cathedral. There were also medium-size cities, like Astorga, with a beautiful, vibrant city square with a cathedral that you pass on your way out of town. There were also villages where at any point in time, the pilgrims might outnumber the locals.

Tell me about the group.

Jan: We ranged in age from mid-20s to mid-70s. Several people belonged to one church in Wilmington, St. Paul's Episcopal. One person was from West Virginia, one from Virginia, one from Montana. One lady lived in a yurt. One was an artist. A retired airline pilot. A retired television executive. All were interesting. The one thing they all had in common was that they liked to laugh. But we also met folks who were not a part of our travel group, but who became a part of our story. Kevin, the attorney from D.C. Alexander, from Germany. Santiago, from Spain. The mother-daughter combo from Canada. The Australian older man and a young Aussie couple.

Can we go back to "taking care of your feet"?

Steve: Job Number One every day is: "You've got to take care of your feet." Its mission: Critical. Blisters are terrible, because they don't go

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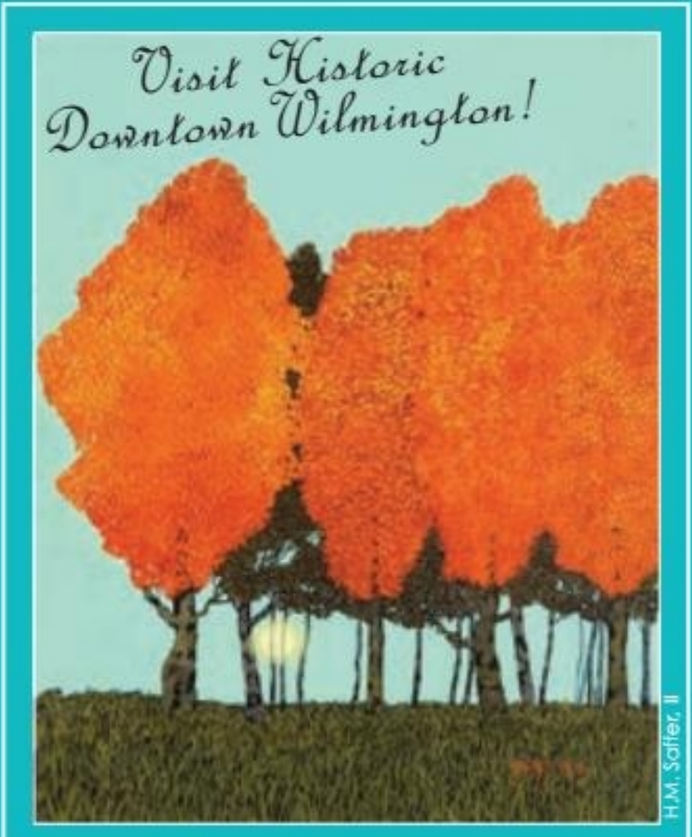

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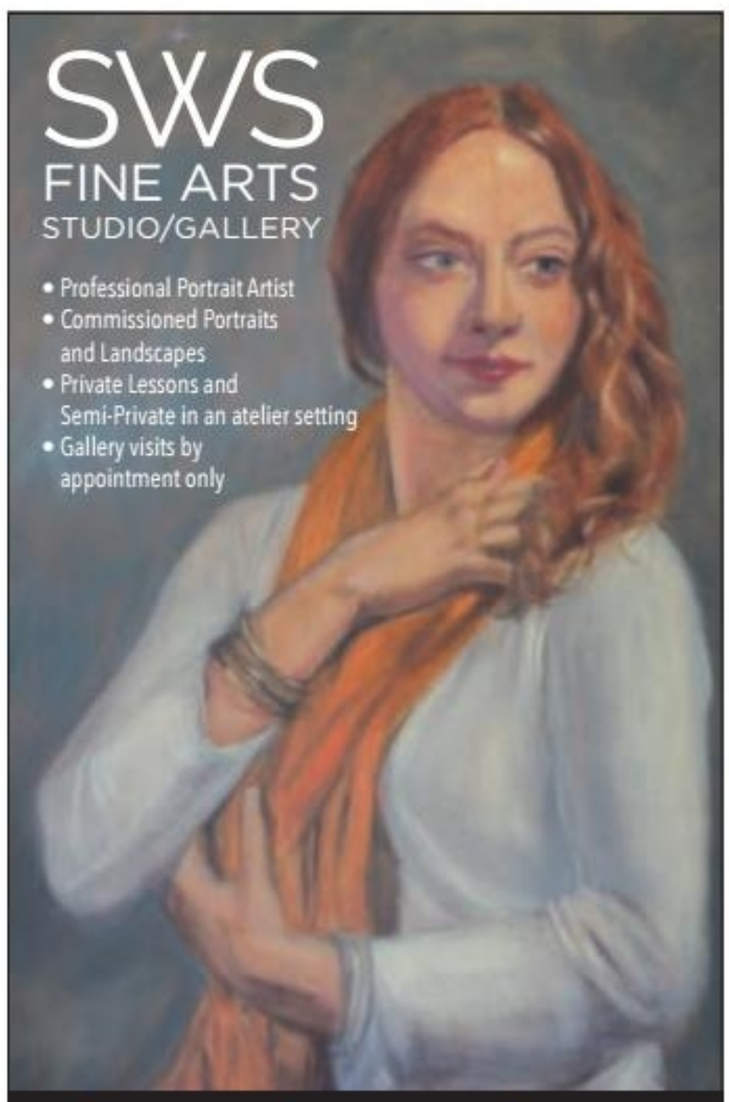

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away. They get really nasty. There's this stuff called Compeed. It wasn't available in the United States, but as soon as we got to Spain I found a pharmacy and bought it. It's like a thin Vaseline, like putting on deodorant. I was religious about putting it all over my feet.
Jan: I wasn't religious about it until I got blisters.
Steve: On the first day of our trek, we get to this little restaurant place and I walk in and get coffee and there's another hiker sitting there. She says, "You're about five minutes too late. If you had been here five minutes earlier, I would have gotten you to sew up my foot."

Some might wonder why anyone would put themselves through this.

Jan: People do it for religious reasons. People do it for personal reasons. People do it for exercise. For me, being off the grid for six or eight hours every day was really satisfying, along with this rhythm that I really loved.

What were your favorite churches?

Jan: Every community had a church, it seemed. The churches were works of art even in the smallest villages. In Santiago, the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela dominates the center city. It is quite beautiful and imposing. You can't miss it. They hold a Mass in Spanish with portions in English and French for the pilgrims and tourists. They also swing incense from one side of the church to the other reaching the cathedral ceiling. The incense container is called a *botafumerio.* Eight men in red robes (called *tiraboleiros*) swing the *botafumerio.* It is quite a sensational production.

Did you find the experience religious or spiritual?

Steve: Not everybody defines spirituality the same. For some folks, it may have been a religious experience, "spiritual" in the sense that you are outside and you do get a high. You walk that much and your body is going to generate a lot of endorphins. It's natural beauty. And it does, I think, put you in a different frame of mind. It gives you a different perspective on life — what's important and what's not so important. And it's simple. It's about as basic as you can get. You walk.
Jan: It's a totally personal journey. Everybody has a different reaction to it.
Steve: I would say that, without fail, good or bad, nobody finishes it the same as they were when they started it.
Jan: We know we are lucky to be able to take trips like this. Travel isn't a right. It is a privilege. And we are lucky to be healthy!

How would you tell others to train for a trip like this?

Steve: If you can, walk 10 to 15 miles on Wrightsville Beach. In August. And that's *flat.*
Jan: We walk six or seven miles a day, four or five times a week.
Steve: But we'll have to pick that up.

So, how are you feeling about going again in September?

Steve: I'm a little apprehensive. Can you put lightning in a bottle twice? I don't know.

Was there a moment that really inspired you?

Jan: One morning, we walked in the clouds. The elevation was pretty high at that point and the sun came up as we were walking. But every day there was something remarkable.

Dana Sachs' latest novel, The Secret of the Nightingale Palace, *is available at bookstores, online and throughout Wilmington.*

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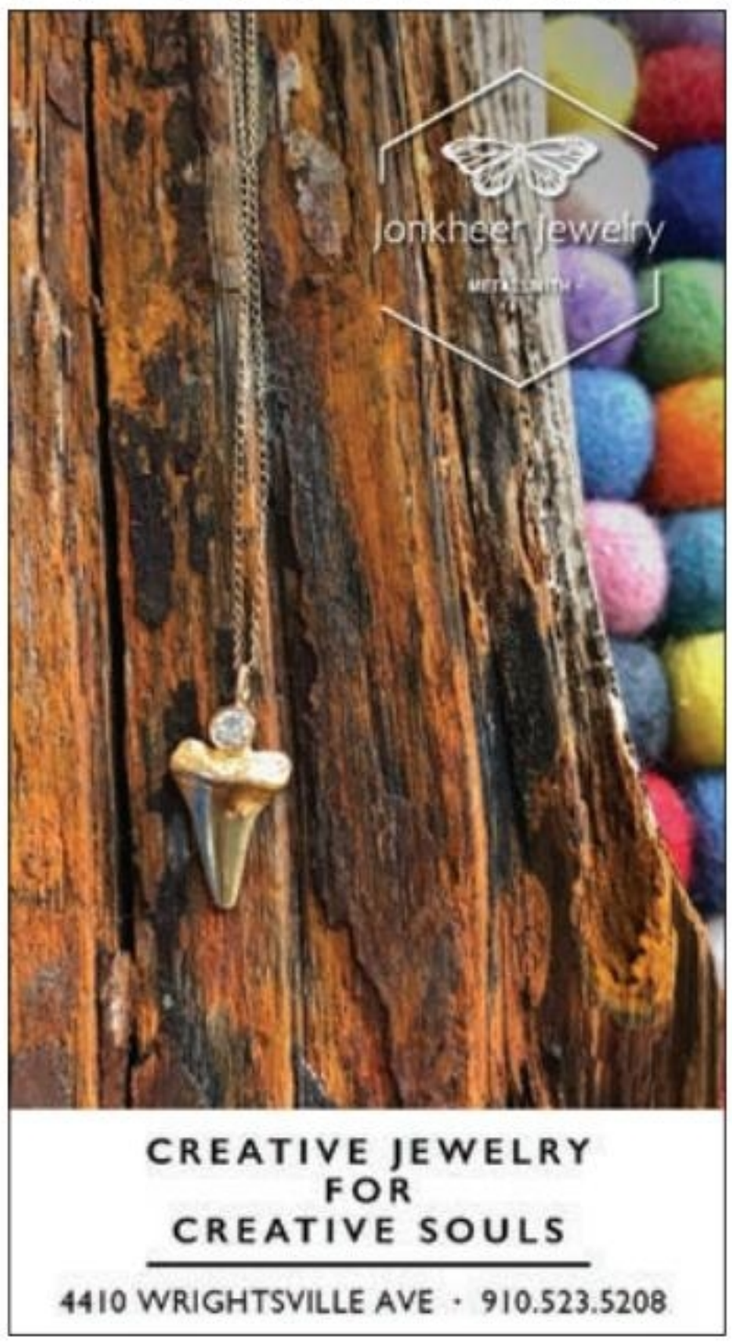

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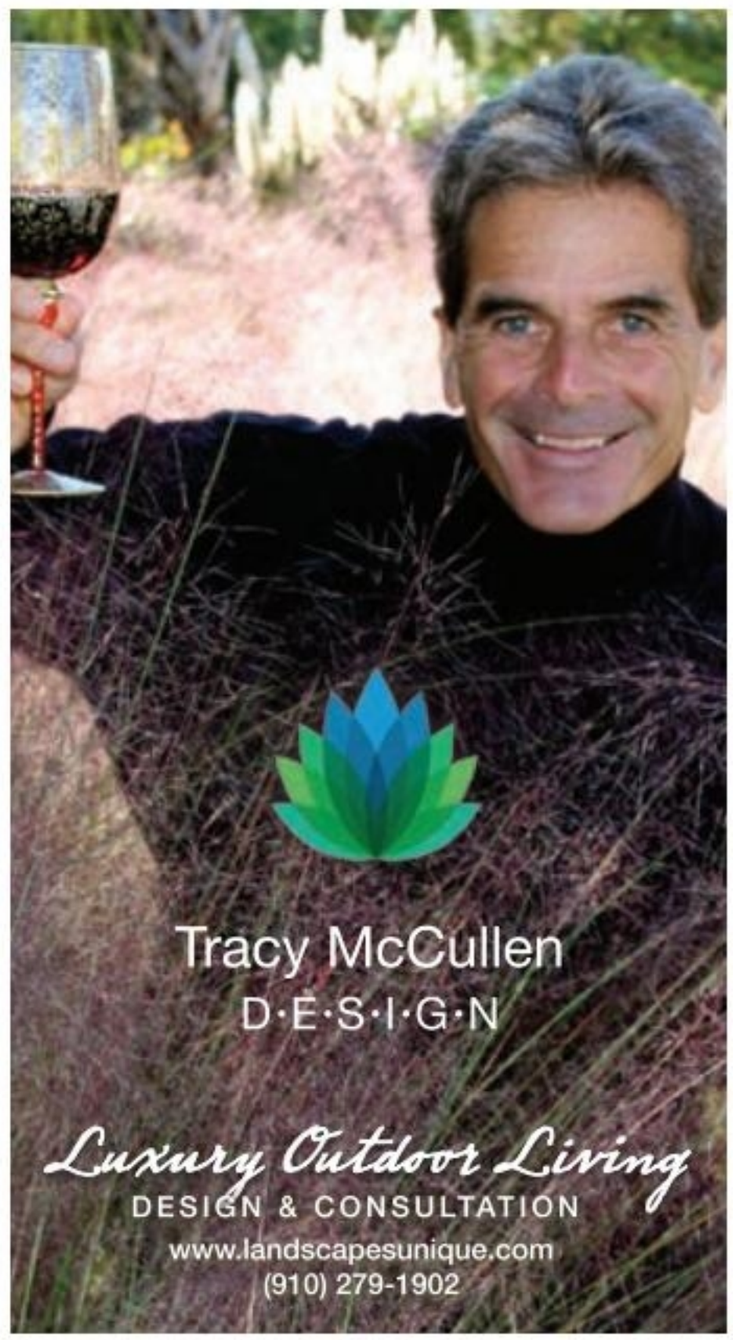
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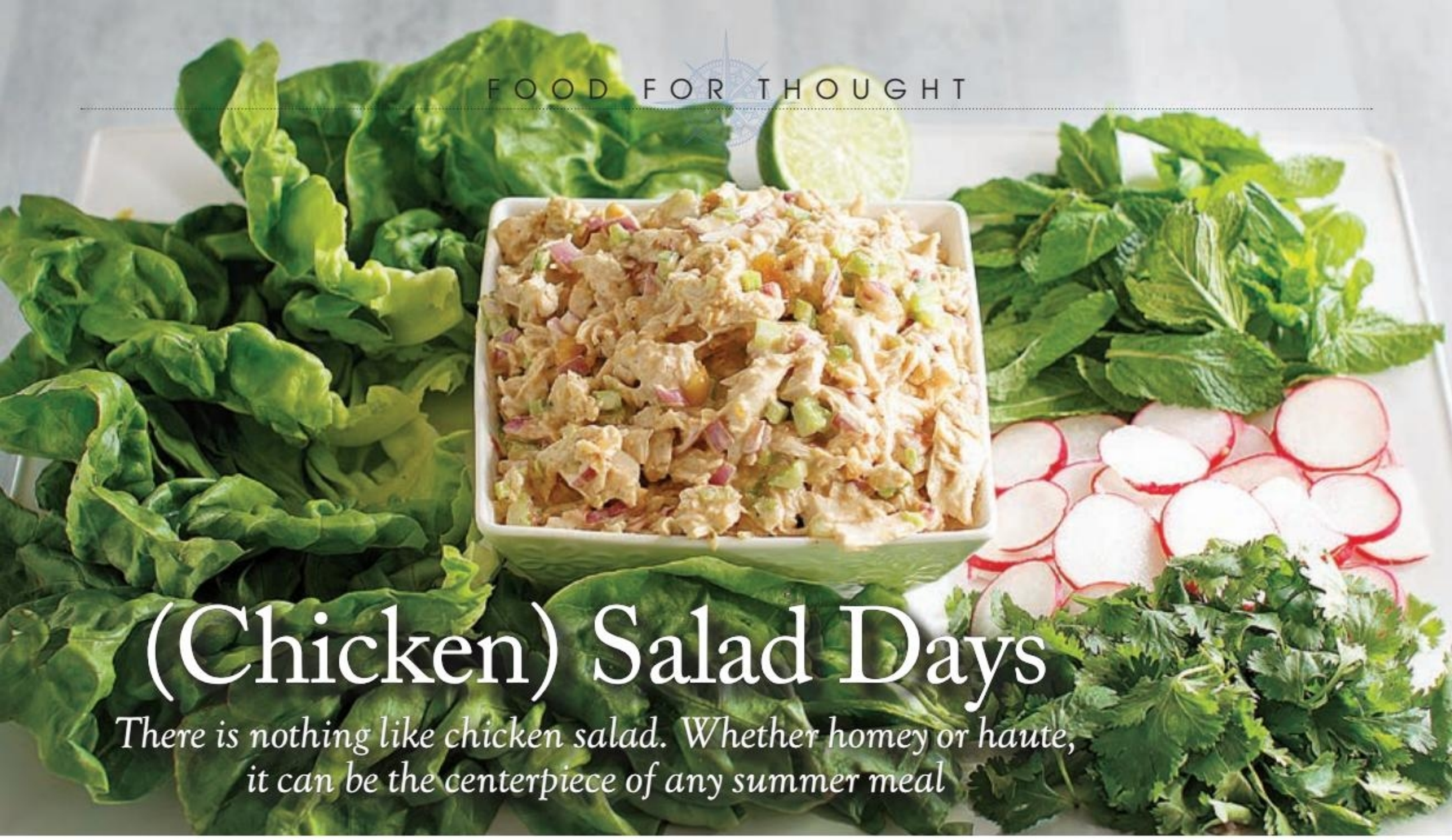

(Chicken) Salad Days

There is nothing like chicken salad. Whether homey or haute, it can be the centerpiece of any summer meal

By Jane Lear

Aside from the "fiesta" or "Oriental" versions found at some chain restaurants, chicken salad has pretty much been relegated to the Nostalgia Department: suitable fare for tearooms, drug-store lunch counters and Southern porch suppers, circa 1955.

I don't know why. I suppose people are afraid of the fat in mayonnaise — common to most recipes — or perhaps the technique of poaching chicken — ditto — sounds difficult. This should change. Chicken salad should become a trend.

I mean, if I had a restaurant — a little roadside café, say — I'd feature a chicken salad sandwich of the week. Or perhaps I'd serve nothing *but* chicken salad; if one of the whiz kids behind the grilled-cheese-shop fad wants to diversify, we should talk.

No matter what, though, I always keep chicken salad in my regular rotation at home, because it's a great make-ahead family supper or, fancied up with tarragon and toasted walnuts, for instance, or with a curry dressing, a fabulous company meal.

In a perfect world, obviously, I'd always take the time to gently poach chicken breast halves, complete with bones and skin: Not only is that one key to flavorful yet clean-tasting meat (along with using a wholesome pastured bird), but the light broth is handy for moistening the salad (instead of more mayo) if it starts to dry out — a trick I learned back in my years at *Gourmet*.

Life has a tendency to get in the way, however, and I'm here to remind you that you can make delicious chicken salad from leftover sautéed or roasted chicken, or even a store-bought rotisserie bird.

For sheer speed and efficiency, it's hard to beat that last option, so I'm always a little shocked when I meet people who are snooty about rotisserie, or spit-roasted, chickens, one of the greatest convenience foods on the planet. Have they ever been to an outdoor market in France? I wonder. The queue for *poulet rôti* should be a tip-off that it's an honest, worthy substitute for a home-roasted chicken in many a French kitchen.

And in mine, too. I'll often buy two on the way home in the evening — one for eating that night, with some harissa-slicked couscous and quick-cooked greens, for example — and the other for salad, later in the week. While it's still warm, I'll strip it of bones and skin, shred both white and dark meat, and combine it with the dressing. Honestly, anyone can do this.

As far as chicken salad recipes go, I like having a repertoire. Several old-school renditions are embellished with toasted slivered almonds and grapes, cut in half lengthwise. A famous one, which is rich and light all at the same time (aside from red grapes, almonds, celery and parsley, the recipe includes unsweetened whipped cream), was created by renowned Texas cook Helen Corbitt for the cafe menu at the Neiman Marcus department store in the '50s. We also have Corbitt to thank for Texas caviar (i.e., pickled black-eyed peas) and poppy-seed dressing.

Other chicken salads in this genre rely on a one-to-one ratio

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES STEFIUK

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of mayonnaise and sour cream, and green grapes instead of red. In general, this sort of chicken salad is utterly predictable and absolutely delicious. You'll want to serve it on a bed of soft-leaf lettuces, and on your mother's china. A side of steamed asparagus and maybe some Parker House rolls and good butter would make everyone very happy.

Lately, though, I've been relying on supermarket staples — in particular, Major Grey's mango chutney and dry-roasted nuts — as well as a picked-up-on-the-run rotisserie bird to put a chicken salad supper on the table fast. What takes this combination out of the Coronation Chicken Salad realm (first made for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation lunch in 1953, it's been popular in Britain ever since) are the additions of cilantro, basil, mint, and lime juice for freshness and verve, as well as large, voluptuous leaves of butterhead lettuce, for making Southeast Asian-style roll-ups.

Fast-Track Chicken Salad with Mango Chutney and Cashews

1 medium red onion, chopped

1 jar Major Grey's-style mango chutney (8 to 9 ounces), mango cut into smaller, bite-size pieces if too chunky

1/2 cup mayonnaise (I'm a lifelong fan of Duke's)

Fresh lime juice, to taste

Coarse salt and freshly ground pepper

1 rotisserie chicken (about 3 pounds), skin and bones discarded and meat shredded

2 to 3 celery stalks, chopped

Dry-roasted whole cashews or peanuts, coarsely chopped, to taste

For the roll-ups

1 or 2 butterhead lettuces such as Bibb, leaves separated, left whole, washed, and spun dry

Handfuls of fresh cilantro, basil and mint sprigs, rinsed and dried

Sliced radishes and/or seedless cucumber, optional

1. Stir together the onion, chutney, mayo and lime juice in a large bowl and season with salt and pepper. (Go easy on the salt if you're going to be adding salted nuts.) Gently stir in the chicken until thoroughly combined. Give the flavors a chance to mingle for 20 or 30 minutes.

2. Just before serving, gently stir in the celery and nuts. Spoon the chicken salad onto a platter and arrange the roll-up fixings (lettuce leaves, herbs, and vegetables) around it so everyone can serve themselves. Your mother's china, optional.

Jane Lear, formerly of Gourmet *magazine and* Martha Stewart Living, *is the editor of* Feed Me, *a quarterly magazine for Long Island food lovers.*

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A Sure Cure for What Ails You

Make a list of the things you like – with or without shelling peas

By Bill Thompson

When I was growing up I did not like shelling peas. It was one of those summer chores that I was assigned that just had no appeal for me. Now, as I look back on those times, I have a revised opinion. I still don't like shelling peas, but I do like the memory of the times I spent at that task with Mama as we sat out on the porch or on a swing under the shade of a big pecan tree in the backyard. She knew that I would rather be somewhere else, doing something more exciting. So, to get me into a more positive mood, she would make up a game. The idea was to see who could come up with the most things we liked.

Recently, I have gone through a spell that has severely challenged my positivity: the loss of my mother and other people close to me, watching the nightly news, trying to get a new book manuscript done on time, and a bout with pneumonia. So, when I was thinking about my mother's passing, I recalled the game we played and decided I needed to try her negativity remedy . . . without the peas.

Here's my list so far:

I like family. I like having people around who care about me even when I do stupid stuff, who share a common background, who remember me when I was "William." I like family reunions where we all get together and tell the same old stories and listen to our aunts describe the complexity of our family tree. It gives me a sense of belonging to a unique group of people, a group unlike any other because we are individually a part of it together. As our family grew, Mama said our heart was always big enough for one more.

I like music . . . all kinds except hard rock. I like small church choirs singing familiar hymns on Sunday morning and community choirs singing Handel's *Messiah* at Christmas. I like to sit on the back porch with my friends playing guitar and singing old Peter, Paul and Mary songs. I like to hear the gospel songs coming from the black church just down the road, feel that excitement and emotion echoing across the field to my house. I like to hear the high school bands play in the parades. I like to listen to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio on Saturday afternoons. I like to sit with my sister at the piano and go through the old sheet music of the '40s, show tunes, and pop music of the '50s. I like the sound of a solo banjo being played by the old man down at the store.

I like laughter. I like to look at some of the absurdities of our life that are so outlandish that laughter is the only explanation for their existence. I have to laugh when the man in the barbershop asked for hair tonic to grow hair on his dog, when I see a young man wearing a parka with the hood pulled up against the winter wind and also wearing a pair of shorts. I like to go to meetings where folks greet each other with a smile, to parties where we tell jokes on each other. I like to read the humor of witty authors and I still call the comics "the funny paper."

I like warm fires in winter and cool breezes in the summer. I like to sit in front of a fireplace and watch the flames turn to embers. I like to sit on the porch in the cool of a summer evening, watch the lightning bugs flicker and the mist fall on the fields.

I like animals. I like to go out to the barn and listen to the horses eat, smell the hay. I like the feel of the horse beneath me as I ride through the pastures and woods in the quiet of the evening. I like the unmatched excitement as I feel the power of a horse galloping, the hoofs beating out a rhythm unmatched by any other creature. I like the peaceful feeling I get when my dog puts his big head in my lap as we sit under a tree and listen to the birds. I like to sit horseback and watch black cattle graze.

I like today. The sun is shining after a morning rain. I like the smell of the new-mowed lawn. I like the smell of the charcoal grill and the taste of fresh brewed sweet tea. I like the quiet, the absence of traffic on the usually busy highway in front of my house.

I can't remember ever winning or losing at the Like Game Mama made up. We always ran out of peas before we ran out of likes.

There are still a lot of things I don't like. But I can't think of them right now. Mama was right again.

Bill Thompson is a regular Salt *contributor. His newest novel,* Chasing Jubal, *is available wherever books are sold.*

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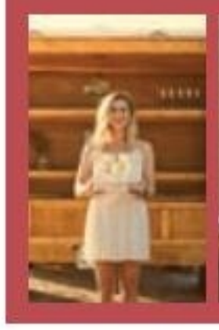

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Brown-Headed Nuthatch

Charming and small, and one of the region's most creative feeders

By Susan Campbell

If you have ever heard the sound of what seems to be a squeaky toy emanating from the treetops here along the coast, you may have had an encounter with a brown-headed nuthatch. This bird's small size and active lifestyle make it a challenge to spot, but once you know what to look and listen for, you will realize it is a common year-round resident.

Brown-headeds are about 4 inches long with gray backs, white bellies and as the name suggests, brown heads. And in this species, males are indistinguishable from females. Their coloration creates perfect camouflage against the tree branches that the birds can be found foraging on, in search of seeds and insects. Their oversize bill allows them to pry open a variety of seeds as well as pine cones and dig deep in the cracks of tree bark for grubs. By virtue of their strong feet and sharp claws, brown-headed nuthatches are capable of crawling head-first down the trunk of trees as easily as going up. Although they do not sing, these birds have a distinctive two-syllable squeak, which they may roll together if they are especially excited.

Brown-headed nuthatches do take advantage of feeders. So if you live near a significant stand of mature pines, they well may be your neighbors. Brown-headeds, when they have found free food, will frequent both sunflower seed feeders and suet from dawn until dusk. An excellent spot to view them would be the feeding station at Carolina Beach State Park. They are very accustomed to people, so viewing at close range is possible, as are fantastic photo opportunities.

This species is one of the area's smallest breeding birds. It is a non-migratory resident, living as a family group for most of the year. Unlike its cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch, which can be found in mixed forests across the state, the brown-headed is a bird of the mature pine forest. Brown-headeds are endemic to the southeastern United States, from coastal Virginia through most of Florida and west to the eastern edge of Texas. Their range actually covers the historic reaches of the longleaf pine. However, this little bird has switched to using other species of pine such as loblolly and Virginia pine in the longleaf's absence.

Brown-headed nuthatches are capable of excavating their own nest hole in small dead trees in early spring. But because so few of the appropriate-size trees are available (due to humans tidying up the landscape), brown-headed nuthatches have taken to using nest boxes in recent years. However, unless the hole is small enough to exclude larger birds such as bluebirds, they may be out-competed for the space. For this reason the species is now one of concern across the Southeast, with populations in decline. In addition to reductions in breeding productivity, logging, fire suppression as well as forest fragmentation are causing significant challenges for brown-headed nuthatches.

Susan would love to receive your wildlife sightings and photos. She can be contacted at susan@ncaves.com.

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2019 SUMMER SESSION

HEALTH ADVOCATE SERVICES

"The Importance of Healthcare Advocacy": *Getting the Most!*

Presented by: Ellen Abisch, RN, President of Health Advocate Services

Wednesday, June 12th, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Join us for tips to get the most from your doctor's visits and health insurance. Patient roles have changed. Learn the steps to take to use healthcare and health insurance effectively for better health, and cost control.

RSVP BY: Monday, June 10th

Location: Brightmore Independent Living, 2324 South Forty-First Street

Book Review: Author Series Part 2
"Will Wilmington Be Declared a WWII City?":
What's Involved and What It Would Mean

Presented by: Ret. Capt. Wilbur Jones, Military Historian & Author

Tuesday, June 18th, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Come hear this internationally recognized WWII authority and originator of this idea, as he shares info on the work he did to get the President's signature, it's progress through approval channels, and what this means now and for the future of our city! Mr. Jones will also share info on his numerous WWII books.

RSVP BY: Monday, June 17th

Location: Brightmore Independent Living, 2298 South Forty-First Street

5th Annual "Salute to the Troops Concert, Dinner & Dance": *A FREE Pre-4th of July Event!*

Thursday, June 27th at 6:00 – 9:00 PM

Presented by: Brightmore & Co-Sponsor, Wilmington Funeral & Cremation

Join us for Myrtle Beach's "Andrew Thielen Big Band"performing Jazz, Patriotic and Beach Music favorites under our front portico and tent and a Picnic-style buffet in our dining room with inside and outside seating---complete with desserts and non-alcoholic beverages, plus more! Proceeds from adult beverages and raffle ticket sales benefit The Wilmington Parkinson's & Lewy Body Support Group through The Parkinson's Association of the Carolina's. This is a Don't Miss event!! CALL NOW to RSVP!! ***RSVP: by Monday, June 24.***

Location: Brightmore Independent Living, 2324 South Forty-First Street

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Ode to My Backyard Garden

O mighty, O valiant
flowered phalanxes,
patrolling the patio perimeter!

Sharp-pointed hostas flank
two imposing hydrangeas
holding pride of place,
one uniformed in periwinkle,
the other, salmon pink,
their blooms thrusting
purposefully toward the sky.

Snowy-petaled Shasta daisies
with bright lemon centers —
the next line of defense —
gently wave in formation,
gathering intelligence,
heads pressing together
in silent exchanges.

Outermost are the sturdy sentinels,
daylilies hued in saffron and amber,
their ranks constantly replenished,
ever watchful for marauders,
especially Inscrutable Thomas,
the neighbors' orange tabby,
a stealthy, persistent intruder.

O carry on, carry on,
my intrepid army
of blossoms!

– *Martha Golensky*

To Live in Paradise

Wrightsville Sound, Wrightsville Beach and the Blockade Runner Beach Resort

By Chris E. Fonvielle Jr.

The road to destruction can be swift, like a sparrow in a hurricane. The way back to recovery requires patience and perseverance. The Blockade Runner Beach Resort at Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, has faced just such a challenge in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence that wreaked havoc on the historic oceanfront hotel in September 2018.

Reconstruction in recent years strengthened the hotel to withstand 150-mile-per-hour winds, but not Florence's sustained 100-plus-mile winds for three days. Owners and proprietors, Bill Baggett and his sister Mary Baggett Martin and her husband, Wayne, remained at the hotel as the hurricane approached and then made landfall at Wrightsville Beach. With tongue in cheek, Mary claimed that the vicious storm targeted her family's resort. Hunkered inside the main tower, they listened to the howling winds and then watched helplessly as the roofs peeled away like a ripe banana. "There was nothing we could do but stare in shock and awe as the roofs crashed into the front parking lot and the garden out back," Mary commented. "We looked through the shattered ceilings from various rooms at the dark skies of the hurricane that sat on top of Wrightsville Beach for days on end."

The Blockade Runner has survived eight hurricanes, several winter "super storms," and gales since it opened in 1964. Mary clearly remembers Hurricane Diana in 1984, as she had just started working at the hotel that her father, Joseph W. Baggett of Lillington, North Carolina, had purchased in 1971. None of those storms, however, caused such extensive damage as Florence. Coastal storms and their impact on places like the Blockade Runner are a major part of the rich and fascinating history of Wrightsville Beach and the Lower Cape Fear.

Joshua Grainger Wright, the great-grandson of Joshua Grainger, one of the first settlers and developers of Wilmington in the 1730s, bought land and built a summer place 8 miles to the east that came to bear his surname. The village of Wrightsville emerged on what became known, by 1830, as Wrightsville Sound. Other prominent local families, including the Bradleys, Graingers, Lords and Motts, soon followed suit, acquiring property and constructing houses at Wrightsville Sound in large part to escape the heat, humidity and unhealthy environment of Wilmington during the hot months.

Wrightsville Sound encompassed a large area on the mainland

AUCTION SALES.

BY M. CRONLY, Auctioneer.

UNDERWITERS' SALE.

ON THURSDAY next, 21st inst., at 12 o'clock, I will sell by order and under inspection of Chas. D. Ellis, Underwriters' Agent, on Wrightsville Beach, the HULL, SPARS, SAILS, RIGGING, ANCHORS and FURNITURE of Schr. VIRGINIA, of and from Baltimore, bound for Savannah, as she now lies stranded on the Beach.

Persons wishing to attend the sale/will find boats at Bryant's and Sneaden's Sound Places, ready to carry them.

June 18 398

from modern day Howe's Creek south to Bradley Creek (originally called Lee's Creek) and Hewlett's Creek that emptied into a narrow, shallow body of water that is today the Intracoastal Waterway. From Wrightsville Sound to the Atlantic Ocean about a mile to the east stretched an expanse of sea marsh, grasslands and tidal creeks known early on as "the Hammocks." Residents referred to the seafront's long, sandy strip as "the Banks" but in 1855 at least, it was called Wrightsville Beach.

On June 20, 1855, the *Wilmington Daily Herald* advertised an auction to be conducted by Michael Cronly the following day of the hull, spars, sails, rigging, anchors and furniture from the schooner *Virginia* that had stranded on "Wrightsville Beach," arguably the earliest mention of the place name on public record. To reach the auction site, interested parties took boats from the mainland through London's Channel, the only navigable watercourse through "the Hammocks." The channel's namesake was John R. London, a leading landowner at Wrightsville Sound, but later renamed Grainger's Creek.

Through most of the 19th century, Wrightsville Sound and Wrightsville Beach were the playgrounds for Wilmington's elite. "The time is fast approaching," wrote the editor of the *Wilmington Daily Herald* in June 1859, "when those of our citizens who are so fortunate as to own residences at the sound will pack up bags and baggage, retire to that place of all places, the delightful Sound, to spend the summer, away from the noise and bustle of town, free from dust and din and other objectionable features incident to city life."

That same summer, Richard Grant opened the first documented public resort on Wrightsville Sound, near the north end of modern Summer Rest Road. There was tell of an inn near Hewlett's Creek that catered to seamen during Colonial days, but if it existed its location has been lost to the mists of time. At Grant's place the "weary in body and spirit [could] find quiet and repose, healthful recreation, and plenty to eat and good water to drink and bathe in."

Ambitious tourists who ventured out to Wrightsville Beach "sea bathed," fished, hunted and walked the strand. The Carolina Yacht Club reportedly built its headquarters "just north of Deep Inlet" in 1854, and five years later began sponsoring sailboat regattas in the sound (modern-day Banks Channel) on the east side of the beach, events that continue to this day. The regatta committee included Richard Grant and Richard Bradley, both prominent Wilmington businessmen and landowners at Wrightsville Sound.

A lack of leisure time, affordable accommodations and good transportation routes prevented working-class men and women and "middling folks" from enjoying the health and relaxation benefits of the ocean's "salubrious breezes" along the Cape Fear coast during the summer months. Meares Road ran from Wilmington only to the headwaters of Bradley Creek, a mile west of Wrightsville Sound, while Mush Pot Road was little more than a footpath between the Topsail Sound Plank Road (near the intersection of modern Market Street and Eastwood Road) and Wrightsville.

In November 1860, William A. Wright, son of Joshua Grainger Wright, lobbied North Carolina's General Assembly for an act of incorporation for a company to build a turnpike from the Topsail Sound Plank Road to Wrightsville Sound, but the Civil War interrupted his plans. Confederate Army units encamped at Wrightsville Sound, hoping their presence would dissuade Union troops from attempting to use Bradley or Hewlett's Creek as avenues of attack on Wilmington from the east. Union warships that prowled the shipping lanes off Wrightsville Beach searching for Confederate commerce vessels, called blockade runners, occasionally fired artillery shells toward the camps to keep Confederate soldiers hopping. Stephen Sneeden, a commercial fisherman from Wilmington, must have worried that Yankee landing parties might damage or destroy his "fish hut" near the south end of Wrightsville Beach.

After the war, recreational activities on Wrightsville Beach became more popular. By 1885 the Carolina Yacht Club boasted 150 members who, along with their guests, could "enjoy a look at the old ocean and be fanned to their satisfaction by its health-giving breezes, to say nothing of the comfort and conveniences of a good substantial shelter." The clubhouse, a "beautiful structure of Grecian architecture," had to be rebuilt after its roof collapsed in a "mass of ruins" in 1877.

William A. Wright renewed his pre-war effort to build a turnpike from Wilmington to Wrightsville Sound. The Wilmington and Coast Turnpike Company received a charter from the legislature, and construction began in midsummer of 1875. The road, use of which required the payment of tolls at three booths along the route, stretched 7 1/2 miles from 17th and Dock streets to Wrightsville (modern-day Wrightsville Avenue follows the same approximate route). Paved with marl, oyster shells and limestone, locals nicknamed it the Shell Road. It opened for traffic in April 1876, but was not completed until 1880. At first, four-wheeled horse-drawn "wagonettes" transported passengers to the sound several times a day, but bicycles became a popular mode of travel during the cycling craze that began about 1885, and then automobiles after the turn of the 20th century.

The Shell Road was not the money-making venture that its stockholders had hoped, yet it did boost the development of Wrightsville and Wrightsville Sound. "The village is destined to become another

Seashore Hotel

Ocean Terrace Hotel

Atlantic City," claimed one impressed visitor. In July 1880, F.A. Schutte opened a resort known as Schutte's Grove. Others soon appeared, including Seaside Park and Stokely Pavilion. In 1884, E.W. Manning and W.F. Manning opened the Pine Grove House on what is today the site of the Waterway Lodge Hotel on Wrightsville Sound. The Manning's sharpie *Mary Ann* carried lodgers to Wrightsville Beach for surf fishing and moonlight excursions. "Go to Wrightsville once and you can't stay away," promoters boasted.

In 1887, the General Assembly chartered the Wilmington and Sea Coast Railroad. "The prime objective of building this road is to give the 21,000 population of this city a chance to spend an occasional day at the seaside," claimed the editor of the *Wilmington Morning Star*. "There is a well-built shell road from the city to the sound which is the favorite drive of the wealthy, but it costs too much for a man of moderate income to go there more than once or twice a season."

In June 1888, steam locomotives began pulling canary-colored cars loaded with tourists every two hours from downtown Wilmington to Wrightsville Sound and across a wooden trestle to the Hammocks, where the Island View Hotel and a dance pavilion had just opened. The following year, the Ocean View Railroad Company received a license to extend the Wilmington and Sea Coast Railroad from the Hammocks across Banks Channel to the beach. The public stock company also got a 20-year lease on all lands from the Hammocks, which was renamed Harbor Island in 1916, southward to Masonboro Inlet, and immediately began constructing a restaurant, bathhouses and a pavilion called the Breeze House.

The success of the Ocean View Railroad Company's real estate projects jump-started visitation to and development of what was now being referred to as Ocean View Beach. "They have leased additional grounds on the beach and within two weeks will begin the erection of extensive buildings," reported the *Wilmington Messenger* on January 31, 1890. "[The corporation] has determined to make it a popular resort." By 1897, more than 50 cottages and several inns, including the Ocean View Hotel and the Seashore Hotel, and a hospital for children had been built near the sea. James Laurence Sprunt and the Hewlett family planned and financed much of the early construction. Incorporation of the town of Wrightsville Beach occurred on March 6, 1899.

In 1902, Hugh MacRae assumed controlling interest in both the Wilmington Sea Coast and Ocean View Railroad companies, the economic and social lifeblood of Wrightsville Sound and Wrightsville Beach. MacRae's Consolidated Railways, Light & Power Company (renamed Tide Water Power Company) soon began developing suburban neighborhoods along the streetcar line and at Wrightsville Beach. He also converted the propulsion system of the rail cars from steam to electricity.

In 1905, MacRae built Wrightsville Beach's grandest 20th-century attraction, the Lumina Pavilion, at Station No. 7, the last trolley stop on the beach's south end. The Lumina featured a large ballroom for big bands and dancing, bowling alley, game arcade, athletic and aquatic competitions, beauty contests, and "moving pictures" projected onto big screens erected in the surf. It soon became the favorite destination for beachgoers and tourists. Illuminated from the roof to the ground by hundreds of tungsten lights that could be seen for miles, the Lumina became known as the "Palace of Lights." Sadly, it was demolished in 1973 to make way for residential townhouses.

A wind-fueled fire in 1919 consumed the Seashore Hotel and the "Great Fire" of 1934 destroyed more than 100 structures on Wrightsville Beach, including the Oceanic Hotel. The Seashore Hotel was rebuilt on South Lumina Avenue, and was later renamed the Ocean Terrace Hotel. Hurricane Hazel severely damaged the Ocean Terrace in October 1954, and yet another fire burned it down two months later.

The loss of the Ocean Terrace Hotel, however, paved the way for the construction of a new seven-story-high, 120-room resort and convention center called the Blockade Runner Motor Hotel. Native Wilmingtonian Lawrence Lewis Jr. of Richmond, Virginia, bought the property and began construction of the hotel in 1962. The blockade runners that had traded at Wilmington, the Confederacy's most important seaport by 1863, and the popularity of the Civil War Centennial prompted Lewis to name his facility the Blockade Runner Motor Hotel. The lobby originally featured a large half model of the steam blockade runner *Hope* and large relief map of the Lower Cape Fear during the Civil War. The Blockade Runner Motor Hotel opened with much fanfare in late March 1964.

Now known as the Blockade Runner Beach Resort, it is the longest-standing hotel on Wrightsville Beach, celebrating its 55th anniversary this year. It is unique in that the property extends from the Atlantic Ocean to Banks Channel. Bill Baggett and Mary Baggett Martin promote the Blockade Runner Beach Resort as a full-service tourist facility. They want their patrons to enjoy all the amenities they need and desire under one roof in a safe, secure and comfortable environment.

The Blockade Runner Beach Resort has expanded to 150 bedrooms and suites, and includes spacious areas for conventions,

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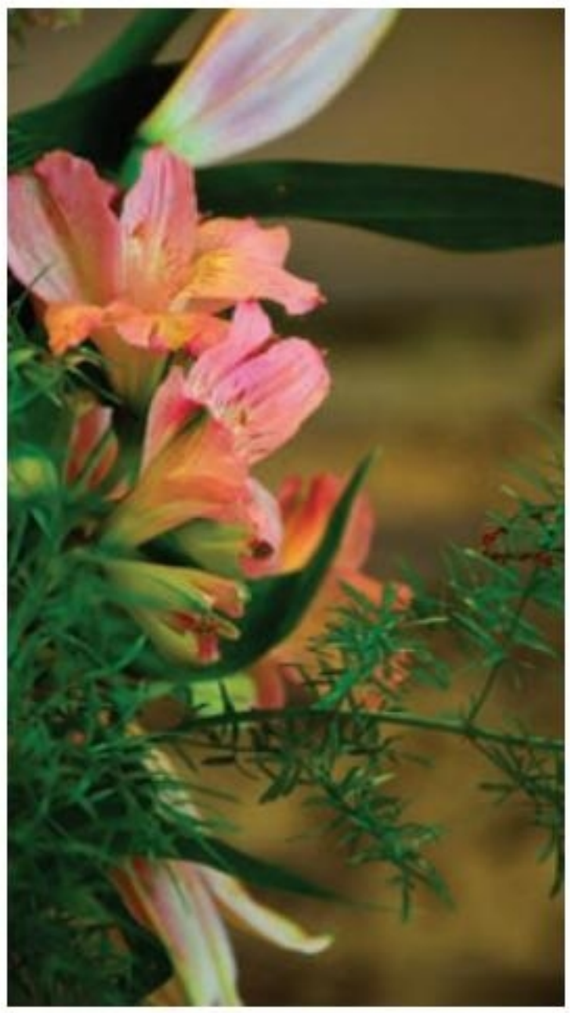
1964 Blockade Runner & present day

meetings and parties. In the 1980s the Blockade Runner featured the "Comedy Zone," which brought in rising star comedians Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno, Ellen DeGeneres and others. Preservation North Carolina held a symposium at the Blockade Runner in March 2019. The interior has been redesigned to promote an aquatic rather than a historical theme. Today it offers patrons fine dining, live music, sailing and surfing lessons, spa and workout facilities, yoga and a freshwater pool surrounded by a beautiful flower garden. One enthusiastic employee, Sarah Wiggins, even teaches guests how to hula hoop, a big cultural fad back in the 1950s.

Mary Baggett Martin is especially proud that her family's resort supports many local nonprofit organizations and causes. She considers herself lucky to be a longtime resident of Wrightsville Beach and the Lower Cape Fear, and revels in its blend of exceptional beauty, charm, small town feel, culture, and history. And despite Hurricane Florence's terrible damage to the Blockade Runner, Mary is optimistic about its future: "We've spent the past eight months rebuilding and remodeling with the intention of making the resort better than ever."

As locals will attest, dealing with hurricanes, gales and nor'easters is just the price you pay to live in paradise.

Dr. Fonvielle is professor emeritus in the Department of History at UNC Wilmington, and the author of articles and books on the Civil War in North Carolina and the history of the Lower Cape Fear. Upon his retirement in 2018, he was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in recognition of his distinguished service to the state of North Carolina.



The Seaside Gardener

It's a tough business keeping a garden in bloom by the ocean's edge, an endless battle against heat, salt and the occasional killer hurricane. But the Blockade Runner's Aubrey Doggett does it beautifully, year after year

By Barbara J. Sullivan

He frets. He worries. He clucks over fallen pindo palms and rotten root balls. And it's no wonder. Aubrey Doggett is a full-time gardener trying to sustain a richly planted landscape some 60 yards from the Atlantic Ocean's high-tide mark. "You have to be crazy to do it at the beach," he says. And yet he persists. He's done so over a period of more than 30 years at the Blockade Runner, the much-beloved oceanfront hotel at Wrightsville Beach; and he's done it well. In spite of constant salt spray, the occasional cruel winter freeze or soggy summer deluge and frequent heavy winds with their trifecta of sand-sear, desiccation and criminal battery, he's determined to make it work. "Mother Nature's fickle, and if you don't have a sense of humor . . . well, you might take it personally." Taking it personally would be a mistake. A garden at the beach is a set-up for disaster: rabbits, grubs, aphids, dollar weed, chickweed — to say nothing of heat, humidity and soil that runs through your fingers like — oh, wait — sand. And, of course, hurricanes.

In 1996, about 10 years after Doggett began tending to the gardens at the Blockade Runner, hurricanes Bertha and Fran leveled the dunes, destroyed the plantings and pumped water throughout the hotel's first floor. With a bulldozer and 100 truckloads of masonry sand, he and his crew started the oceanfront gardens all over again. Since that time, five more hurricanes have hit or come near enough to cause concern. Most recently, in September 2018, with Hurricane Florence barreling down, the crew spent 15-hour days moving as many plants as they could to safety. What you hope for in a hurricane, Doggett says, is a lot of rain on the backside of the storm after the eyewall has passed. Otherwise, he says, "the salt will burn the heck out of the plants."

Doggett has come by his gardening persistence through a lifetime of practice and curiosity. As a small boy growing up in the North Carolina Piedmont, he helped his father and grandfather with weekly chores of mowing, raking and weeding. One of his fondest memories is exploring the twists and turns of a boxwood maze in a neighbor's garden. In Winston-Salem, his walk to school took him past the famed Reynolda Gardens, with its rich perennial borders and colorful annual displays. In Greensboro, he transformed his burgeoning knowledge of the plant world into a small business by freshening up neighbors' yards each year in anticipation of the annual Wyndham PGA tournament. Over the years, he went on to cultivate golf course turf, manage his own landscaping business as well as cultivate plants for other landscapers and nurseries. When asked what kept drawing him to work in the dirt, he says, "I think it was just getting the imme-

RIGHT PHOTOGRAPH BY MALLORY CASH, LEFT PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE BLOCKADE RUNNER

WAKE FOREST

diate gratification from manipulating Mother Nature for another day."

When he first got a part-time job bartending at the Blockade Runner's Comedy Zone in the mid-1980s (back in the era when the not-quite-famous comedians Jerry Seinfeld and Jay Leno worked the crowd), Aubrey Doggett couldn't possibly have imagined he would become the staff member in charge of developing and maintaining the gardens throughout the entire property. These include some 600 feet of street-front plantings, thickly planted beds rimming the front of the building and the parking lot, an acre-and-a-half of lawns and gardens facing onto the ocean and, as of 10 years ago, an ambitious landscaping project across the street on Banks Channel. Each spot has its own challenges and history.

At the very beginning, Doggett's landscaping assignment was part-time and limited to keeping the lawns and beds on the ocean-side under control. From some deep-seated urge to propagate, however, he began expanding the lawn bit by bit, possibly under the general theory that no one would notice if it happened gradually enough. Each spring and fall, after he aerated the grass, he gathered up the leftover plugs and lined them up neatly where turf met sand dune. He then kept the new strips watered until they took root. He estimates that over the years he may have doubled the lawn area this way.

The broad stretches of manicured Tifway Bermuda grass are bordered by planting beds set off with granite boulders and Dixie pink gravel. The beds, richly populated with a variety of shapes, textures and colors, work as a framework for the various outdoor seating and pool areas. Doggett relies on plants that can take punishing heat, salt and wind. Among his favorites are the ornamental grasses like the majestic, deep burgundy/black fountain grass 'First Knight' or the towering yellow and green giant reed grass 'Golden Chain.' For architectural structure he's chosen topiaried pines and dramatically bold pindo palms complemented by the abundant foliage of subtropical bananas, elephant ears and canna lilies, and a few true tropicals like bird-of-paradise and hibiscus. He's learned to take advantage of plants that love nothing better than hot sun and perfect drainage. Among these are succulents such as ice plant, which grows willy-nilly in the crevices of the sago palm trunks, hens-and-chicks and the impressive century plant, with its 30-foot-tall bloom stalk. Grey-leaved plants are also notoriously tough customers; wormwood and dusty miller thrive in the ocean-side gardens.

The sound-side gardens include a long strip of land between the two hotel-owned piers. In the summer they're lush with lawn grass neatly trimmed up to the edge of scalloped alcoves, each anchored with a stately palm and covered with a tapestry of brightly hued annuals and perennials. Doggett carved the alcoves both to create design interest and to provide shelter for more shade-loving plants. "I can do anything I want in there," he says with a grin, "because there's not the salt intrusion. Even though it faces west, it is pretty much protected." The sound-side gardens are something of a surprise — more reminiscent of cool-weather gardens like those in New England in the summer, filled with dozens of varieties of plants. A small sampling might include sun-loving veronicas, lantanas and coneflowers and an assortment of shade-dwellers like ferns, caladiums and the striking neon-purple Persian shield. But there are so many more mixed in — the array is truly impressive.

Working as head groundskeeper at the Blockade Runner bears little resemblance to what the rest of us think of when we say we love to tinker in the garden. For a start, Doggett and his crew propagate plants by the thousands. "I got 10,000 cuttings two weeks ago," he says by way of explaining why he's been so busy lately. "I just finished those, and I have 20,000 coming in from Israel." After the cuttings are unpacked, they're placed in cell packs and rooted in a greenhouse for a number of weeks

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MALLORY CASH

until they are sturdy enough to plant out in the gardens. These tend to be the seasonal fillers like pansies, snapdragons and kale in cool weather, and purslane and begonias in the hot months. Doggett intersperses these with perennials, palms, evergreens and grasses, which make up the backbone of the gardens. "The hurricanes really made me appreciate the natives," he says, "and the stuff you see everywhere like the yaupons, the pittosporums, the podocarpus."

After the planting there's the watering. Although the grounds are watered by an irrigation system, it doesn't reach all the plantings. Doggett estimates that on a given summer day in the midst of a lengthy drought, he can easily go through hundreds of gallons of water. "I have to be pretty stingy with the water because it's so expensive. I don't want to waste water. You want to have enough pressure to wet everything a little bit and rinse the salt off every day."

And there are considerations home gardeners generally don't have to worry about. For example, hotel guests will be looking down on the garden from their windows, which means plants can't grow so tall that they block the view of the sailboat races or so subtle in color that they look washed-out from a distance. Bright reds, oranges, yellows and coral pinks seem to work the best. For the enjoyment of guests sitting out on the patio, Doggett has created raised berm plantings to block the glare of sun reflecting off of windshields in the parking lot. At one point, he added a touch of whimsy by having an artist friend carve tiki poles out of dead palm trees. And, in a commitment to climate-friendly alternatives, a portion of the gardens is now irrigated by recycled condensate from the A/C units, which is collected in a cistern and piped where it's needed. Perforated underground tubing also helps filter run-off from the parking lot and the road.

As anyone who's ever fiddled around in the dirt knows, a garden is never finished. The work continues year-round, year after year. It brings surprises and unexpected beauty. It brings sore disappointments from time to time. While other people may be sipping pina coladas on the patio, it's a sure bet Aubrey Doggett will be tending to something—propagating begonias in the greenhouse, fertilizing the canna lilies in the flower beds, yanking the dollar weed out from among the horsetail reed, or rinsing the salt spray one more time off the leaves of every last living plant. "Here it's such a quick turnaround," he says philosophically. "You can feel so good about the day you had, and then you come back the next morning . . . you spend all day trying to get back to where you left it the day before . . . because of wind, because of the salt, because of the heat." The fortunate hotel guests and the summer visitors who happen to catch a glimpse of these beach-garden wonders may be forgiven for thinking it all happened as if by magic. And for someone who has worked so hard at it over the years, that is probably the greatest compliment of all.

Barbara Sullivan is a regular Salt *contributor and the author of* Garden Perennials for the Coastal South.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSHUA MCCLURE

Learning to Navigate

Story and Photographs by John Wolfe

The Cape Fear Sail and Power Squadron teaches boaters how to sail safely

There is a beach that lies deserted, just across the water from our mainland, where wind and wave have worked to carve the sand into dazzling patterns: Shark-finned striations stretch downwind of small shells, while the edges of tidal pools are carved cosines, echoes of the ocean. Brown-backed ospreys plunge into the sound, hunting fish with beak and talon, as gray dorsals of dolphins porpoise through the sea offshore. The spartina-rimmed marsh behind the island is alive with oysters and blue crabs; the low maritime forest blooms with sea ox-eye daisy and Spanish bayonet.

What wonders await us, out in the wild world! But no modern highway leads here — you cannot drive your car. You must instead master the tools and techniques humanity has been refining since the days of Odysseus. Tides, currents, winds — these elements can be used to move you, if you know how to read them. The more you practice, the better reader you become.

At the beginning, it's often overwhelming. Without a working knowledge of seamanship and boat handling, that island on the horizon might as well be on the other side of Mars. The best way to start getting out there and exploring is by having a friend with a boat, and perhaps the best place to find one is in our local chapter of "America's boating club," the Cape Fear Sail and Power Squadron.

The Power Squadron can trace its roots back to the Boston Yacht Club in 1912, when the organization's first commander, Roger Upton, saw the need to organize a fledgling group of motorboat enthusiasts at the primarily sailing-oriented club. Gaining traction through the support of Charles Chapman — then-editor of *Motor Boating* magazine and author of one of the premier texts on seamanship, piloting and small-boat handling — the organization has grown to include nearly 25,000 members in 343 squadrons nationwide.

Our local chapter was chartered in 1951, the oldest in the district, and remains the largest in North Carolina, with 230 members. They conduct courtesy vessel safety inspections, teach courses in navigation and piloting, and even escorted the Coast Guard's flagship sailing vessel, the *Barque Eagle*, up the Cape Fear River in 2003. The fundamental function of the organization, however, lies where it has since piloting and boating safety classes were first held at Wilmington College in 1949: educating local recreational boaters in safety and seamanship.

To see for myself what exactly this group does, I attended their "ABCs of Boating" class, hosted one Saturday in February in a sleek, modern classroom at Cape Fear Community College. While the Power Squadron may have started due to differences in preferred propulsion, gone is the old division between "raggies" and "stinkpots," pejorative terms for sailors and powerboaters often heard hurled as insults across VHF Channel 16. All kinds of people can be found on the water these days, in anything from jet skis to sportfishers, and the class contained folks from every category, all here to learn more, together.

As it was adults teaching adults, the class had an informal feel. A rotating roster of instructors offered words of wisdom (such as, "anchor as if you intend to stay for weeks, even if you'll only be there for an hour"), with a generous sprinkling of humor throughout (one instructor defined blindly following the chart plotter onto a sandbar instead

of keeping a proper lookout as an "electronically assisted grounding"). The class covered a wide variety of topics, ranging from an overview of the rules of the road, to basic stability and boat handling, to pertinent government regulations surrounding boating, and did a terrific job of boiling down complex ideas into a format easily digestible for beginners. There were even practical demonstrations to keep things interesting: Each student was given a wooden board with a line and cleat and taught how to tie a bowline and a cleat hitch. Instructors also demonstrated the operation of a CO2-inflatable life vest (sadly, they didn't demonstrate how the flare gun operated, as that probably would have led to a practical demonstration of the fire extinguisher).

Despite the instructors' best efforts, it's impossible to distill all the lessons learned from a lifetime of practicing good seamanship into one Saturday class. That's why they offer advanced classes as well, which cover such topics as engine maintenance (taught by Josh Roberts of Specialized Mechanical Services); piloting and advanced piloting; boat handling and seamanship; fundamentals of sailing; and navigation, including how to use a sextant to take position-determining celestial sights at sea. "People have complained to us that we didn't cover enough ground (in the introductory class)," said education officer Ned Rhodes. "But it's much more than they knew when they came in."

The next morning, we met again for the on-the-water portion of the class, a three-hour cruise aboard *M/V Wilmington*, the 46-foot cruising catamaran operated by Wilmington Water Tours. Capt. Doug Springer, the former Cape Fear riverkeeper who has introduced countless people to the water aboard this vessel, remembered that some of his first boating instruction came from a chapter of the Power Squadron when he was a teenager in Michigan. "You're going to learn something every time you go out on the water," he told the class before taking the helm.

We left the dock. It was a breezy day, with low lavender clouds, and the river rippled like quicksilver. Cormorants dove in pursuit of fish, their snake-like heads peering at us when they surfaced. Assistant education officer Meg Morrison led the class in their chart work, having them follow along with our progress on laminated charts on the tables, and asked them questions as we motored along. What's the vertical clearance of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge? Those who could provide the correct answer (65 feet closed and 135 feet open at mean high tide, if you're curious) received a bite-size Snickers bar.

We passed giant steel ships, which loomed over us like monoliths at the state port — the *Durban Bay* from Panama, the *Independent Spirit* from Monrovia. As the river wound its way to the sea, Ned Rhodes pointed out the differences in buoyage systems using a visual aid made from two soup cans spray-painted red and green ("We spared no expense," he quipped). Where the main river channel meets the Intracoastal Waterway by Snow's Cut, things get confusing quickly, and it's not always easy to tell where the deep water is. We covered this yesterday in the classroom, with much head-scratching, but it's a far easier thing to comprehend when you see it.

The current here is tricky, too. With two powerful waterways joining and the wind blowing stiffly in opposition, conditions got to be "sporty," as Rhodes called it. Short, choppy waves broke high against our rocking hull as we came about in a brief moment of excitement, but an expert maneuver by Capt. Doug put us sailing smoothly again (that's why he's the captain, of course). I think of what might happen if all these people on this boat hadn't been out here to see it done the right way first — the great and dangerous learning curve that exists out here. Last year in North Carolina there were 117 boating accidents; 15 of them, unfortunately, were fatal, and in 80 percent of those cases the operator had received no boating safety instruction. In the six years that this cruise has been taking newcomers out onto our wide waterways, how many accidents have been prevented through education? It's impossible to know, of course, but it's a safe bet that the number is greater than zero.

Our training cruise wasn't all chart work and battling waves, though. While the Power Squadron's brain may be in the classroom, at their heart they are a social organization, a communion of people united by a common love of boating. Their monthly meetings always have a business and educational component, often featuring guest speakers, but the true highlight is always the fellowship, shared over good food and "docktails." As we turned back upriver and headed for the hill, the conversation onboard became vibrant with people meeting each other, sharing their lives with strangers who were quickly becoming friends.

There is something about the closeness of being on a boat together, the necessity of proximity, that brings out an easy sort of chumminess rarely glimpsed ashore. I found myself among people with a shared commitment to education, safety and the environment, and as we landed on the dock, I was glad indeed that the people who make up the Cape Fear Sail and Power Squadron are around to make our waterways a safer and friendlier place.

John Wolfe studied creative nonfiction at UNCW. He can be found online at thewriterjohnwolfe.com.

For more information on classes and programs, visit capefearsailandpowersquadron.org.

Once More to Sea!

The Bald Head Island Conservancy celebrates its most celebrated summer visitor – the sea turtle

By Virginia Holman

Part of Bald Head Island's appeal is the island's relative inaccessibility. Though Bald Head is no longer an island separate from Pleasure Island – Corncake Inlet shoaled in after Hurricane Floyd, making it possible to walk the 10-mile beach strand between Fort Fisher and the remote coastal village – trying to access it on foot during the hot months remains an unappealing, crossing-the-desert-like option. Official island or not, most people prefer to access Bald Head by private boat or on one of the town's comfortable passengers-only ferries: the *Sans Souci*, the *Adventure*, the *Patriot* and the *Ranger*.

This 20-minute trip affords visitors expansive views of the Cape Fear River. As soon as visitors arrive on Bald Head, the "real world" and its troubles melt away. One reason is that it's soul-soothingly quiet, so quiet that you can hear the gentle squeak of pelican wings when they pass overhead. The ever-present low-level traffic noise of the mainland doesn't exist here.

The other thing that visitors notice straight away is the dappled light. Bald Head villagers cherish their trees. Most of the island's narrow paved roads meander through an extensive network of pristine maritime forest. Even on the hottest days, visitors are often out and about enjoying the day beneath this shaded canopy of live oaks. All of this is possible because this forward-thinking town

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made its mission to develop the island thoughtfully, with particular emphasis on preserving and protecting the town's natural beauty, watersheds and wildlife.

Enter the Bald Head Island Conservancy: This impressive nonprofit, formed in 1983, is the environmental stewardship organization of the island. If you aren't looking for the Conservancy, it's easy to miss. This small compound is housed in an understated network of buildings designed to blend in with the surrounding maritime forest. Staff offices, classrooms for ongoing education programs, wet and dry lab spaces, and even a small dormitory for the Conservancy's 17 summer interns coexist side-by-side. Throughout the year, staff and scientists run education events, conduct research, and assist visiting researchers with everything from chemical contaminants in rainwater to sea turtle navigation.

The Conservancy's mission is threefold: It "fosters community barrier island conservation, education, and preservation." Community, for the Conservancy, includes homeowners, vacationers, as well as mainlanders in nearby coastal counties. Dr. Beth Darrow, BHIC's senior scientist, says that in 2017, the Conservancy was awarded a grant from Duke Energy to fund the Barrier Island Botanists Program, an initiative to bring nearly 1,000 Brunswick County sixth- graders to Bald Head to learn about the island's ecology. Students will work with coastal ecologists to learn about barrier island habitats as well as the unique plants and insects that thrive on Bald Head. Though the program was interrupted by Hurricane Florence, it is scheduled to restart in the fall of 2019.

The island is also a haven for many creatures: deer, alligators, lizards, snakes, eagles, coyotes, osprey, painted buntings and butterflies. The Conservancy offers a wide variety of coastal programming aimed at educating the next generation to be thoughtful stewards of this unique barrier island. Programs include a fishing school, kayaking trips, birding courses, and a day camp that offers the opportunity to "be a sea turtle biologist in training."

Bald Head's most notable celebrities are, without a doubt, the sea

turtles that migrate to its shores to nest each summer. With three appealing oceanfront beaches that face south, east and west, the turtles have a number of nesting options. There were 52 recorded loggerhead turtle nests in 2018. Despite six lost nests — two to Hurricane Florence, two to drowning, and two to coyote predation — a total of 4,400 hatchlings made it to sea successfully. Even with such impressive numbers, if you want to catch a glimpse of a sea turtle, you have to watch and wait, and wait, and wait. That's because most sea turtles that nest in North Carolina (with the exception of the Kemp's Ridley) are nocturnal nesters. They also like their beaches as dark as possible — bright light can disturb and disorient nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings. That's why Bald Head has stringent protocols for outdoor lighting near its beaches, and allows only red light use on the beaches at night during nesting season.

"Most beach communities with turtle patrols use dawn patrols," says Paul Hillbrand, BHIC's sea turtle program coordinator. In communities with dawn patrol programs, sea turtle volunteers hop on small golf-cart-like utility vehicles each morning and look for evidence of turtle crawls. Hillbrand sketches out several distinctive types of turtle tracks in the sand. "The volunteers will look at these tracks to see what kind of turtle came ashore, and then determine the location of the nest," he says. "On Bald Head, we do saturation tagging. In other words, two teams of trained turtle interns patrol the beaches every hour from dusk until dawn with the goal of intercepting each nesting mother that comes ashore." It's a labor-intensive process, but one that yields a tremendous amount of turtle data over time.

BHIC coastal scientist Emily Goetz explains saturation tagging: "When a turtle begins to deposit her eggs, the interns tag the turtles with both PIT and flipper tags, obtain a small DNA sample from the nesting mother's flipper, remove one egg to send to the state for DNA analysis, and take measurements of the carapace." BHIC is the only private organization in North Carolina currently permitted to use PIT tags (similar to a microchip you might get for your dog or cat). Before a nesting mother is tagged, she is first scanned to see if she already has

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PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BLEVINS

a PIT tag. If so, it will emit a unique code. With this code, researchers can identify and record how many times a particular mother has returned to Bald Head, document her health and development, and so on. This information is then logged into BHIC's database, which contains 30 years of nesting sea turtle data — making it perhaps the most significant repository of nesting sea turtle data in the state.

BHIC is a nonprofit, so to keep its programs running and its staff paid, they work hard to raise awareness about their work. Substantial ongoing funding on the island comes from the the Conservancy's stand-alone retail shop, Turtle Central, managed by Pam Smith and Hannah Newcombe. This charming store stocks eco-friendly, environmentally sustainable clothing, gifts, jewelry and art, and a fine selection of books about Bald Head and the surrounding area. All profits from the shop support the work of the Conservancy. And on June 19, BHIC will host its first event in celebration of World Sea Turtle Day. Melissa Blackmon, director of development at BHIC, says that the day-long, family-friendly festival will start with a 5K turtle trot and 1-mile fun run, and that educational and crafts events for kids will run all day. There will also be a wine tasting, live music, and even a fashion show. A free shuttle will run from the marina to the event site. What could be better than a day spent on Bald Head celebrating North Carolina's cherished sea turtles?

Photos taken during conservation activities authorized by state and federal agencies

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To learn more about Bald Head Island Conservancy and their World Sea Turtle Day event, visit https://www.bhic.org/blog/282509/world-sea-turtle-day-celebration. The ferry to Bald Head runs out of Southport, North Carolina: https://www.bald-headisland.com/island/ferry.

Author and creative writing instructor Virginia Holman lives and writes in Carolina Beach.

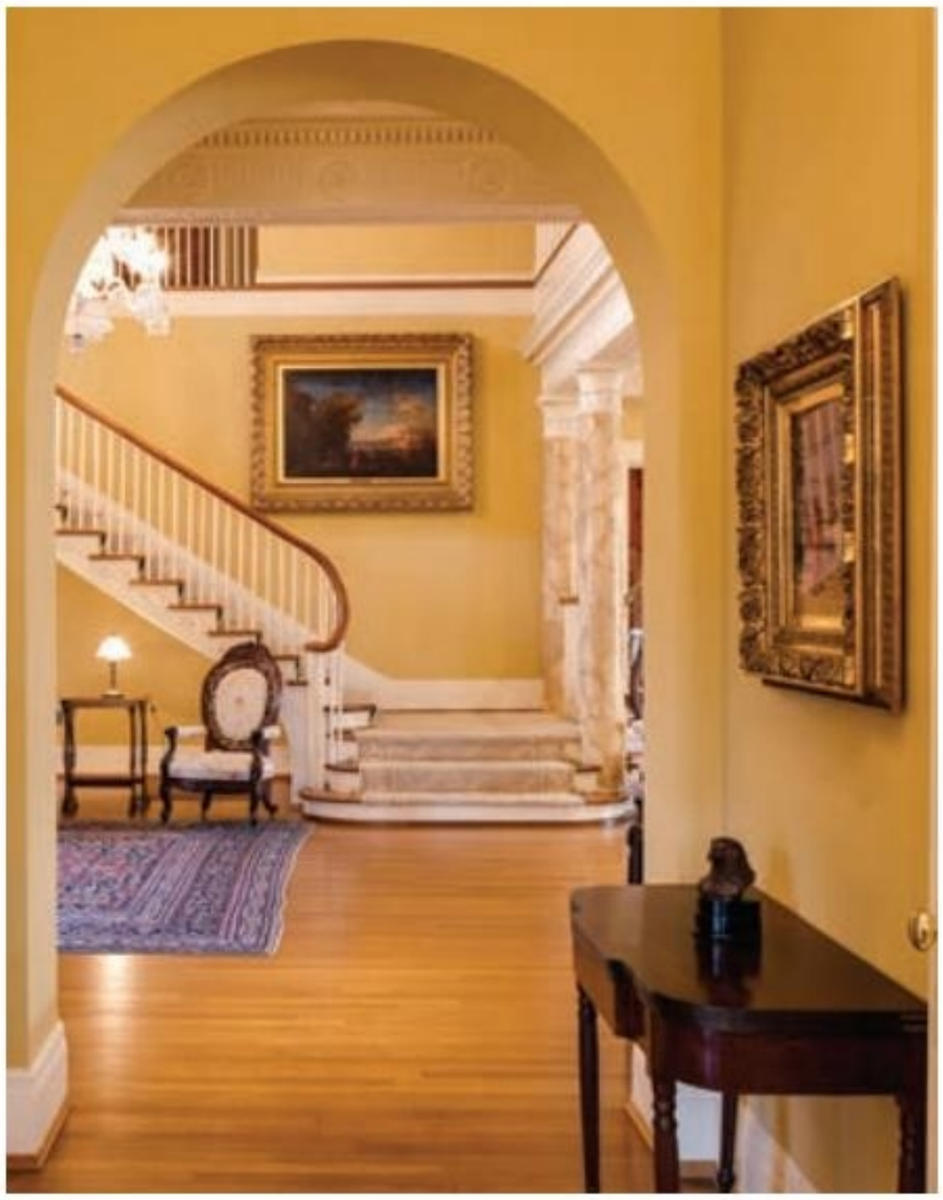
STORY OF A HOUSE

A House Called Sunnyside

The rebirth of a Golden Age classic

By William Irvine

Photography By Rick Ricozzi



If you happen to be walking down Market Street past the high school, you will soon find yourself in the smallest of Wilmington's landmarked neighborhoods — the Market Street Mansion District, consisting of four Neoclassical and Neo-Colonial houses on a grand scale, evidence of the city's pre-World War I prosperity and the high style of its railroad magnates and industrial heiresses.

Developed at the turn of the last century by Mary Bridgers, a wealthy entrepreneur and the daughter of Col. Robert Bridgers, president of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the Mansion District was a sparkling adjacency to her nearby real estate developments, Carolina Heights and Carolina Place. And nothing in these new suburbs came cheap: As Miss Bridgers declared in an existing deed from 1908: "No dwelling houses on the premises . . . to cost less than $4,500." The most handsome of these mansions is the Kenan House, at 1705 Market Street. And therein lies our tale.

Sarah Graham Kenan (1876-1968) was a member of the distinguished Kenan family, who emigrated from Scotland to Colonial North Carolina in the 1730s. Born in Wilmington, Sarah married her cousin, Graham Kenan, an attorney who soon set up practice in New York. His unexpected death in 1920 inspired Sarah to move back to Wilmington, where she purchased 1705 Market Street, conveniently situated two houses down from her sister Jessie Kenan Wise. She called the house Sunnyside.

But there was much work to be done. Originally built for Thomas Everson, president of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, in 1911, the Georgian Revival-style house, a 7,500-square-foot brick structure with colossal Corinthian columns designed by architects Burett Stevens and James Leitner, was in need of an upgrade. Sarah Kenan wanted a solarium and a two-car garage (this was the 1920s, after all), among other modern conveniences.

For the renovation, she turned to Thomas Hastings of Carrere & Hastings, the leading Beaux-Arts architecture firm in the country. Sarah was doubtless quite familiar with the firm's work — Carrere & Hastings had designed many important buildings, among them Manhattan's majestic New York Public Library and the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond — through Henry Flagler, her late brother-in-law, a partner with John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company. The husband of Sarah's sister Mary Lily Kenan, Flagler was also the developer of the first railroad and hotels along the east coast of Florida; Carrere and Hastings designed several hotels for Flagler as well as his house, Whitehall, in Palm Beach. (Upon Flagler's death at Whitehall in 1913, Mary Lily Kenan inherited a fortune estimated at close to $100 million, making her the richest woman in America. A good sister to have.)

Upon entering the house, you are immediately in the Great Hall, a formidable 55-foot room encircled by 16 columns, with bas-relief plaster ceilings and dominated by a walk-in Italian marble mantelpiece, a feature of Sarah's sister Jessie Kenan Wise's outdoor garden on Market Street, which Sarah purchased from her. Also predominant is a large Czechoslovakian crystal chandelier in the stairwell, which came from Satan's Toe, Henry Flagler's summer house in Mamaroneck, New York. Sarah had admired it during a visit and Flagler gave it to her as a gift. The other public rooms feature marble fireplaces and decorative arts that are typical of the era, informed by travel in Europe: marble candelabra and urns on pedestals, a French Rococo-style vitrine, a wrought-iron and bronze water fountain in Hastings' elegant solarium.

Many artworks from various Kenan and Flagler houses are now hanging — and all have been recently restored — most notably *Young Girl Defending Herself Against Eros,* by William Adolphe Bouguereau, which originally came from Whitehall in Palm Beach. There is also a delicate School of Rubens *Holy Family* as well as 17th- and 18th-century Dutch and English genre paintings. The dining room features an elegant portrait, *M. John Athow of Norwich,* by Sir William Beechey. Sarah Kenan's collection of Oriental rugs and clocks are spread throughout the house.

In 1931, a devastating fire tore through Sunnyside as Sarah was preparing for a European motor trip. The second floor was completely destroyed (including all her clothing). The first floor suffered serious water damage, but the artworks and antiques were salvaged. William Rand Kenan Jr., Sarah's brother, sent her off on her trip and hired New York architect Leonard Schultze, the architect of the Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach for Henry Flagler, to rebuild the interiors.

Schultze transformed the frame of the house, lining rooms with steel and hardwood-covered concrete floors to make them fireproof, and introduced luxurious woodwork and materials to create interiors that were more sumptuous than the originals. The dining room is lined with pine paneling taken from an 18th-century house in Surrey, England, and many of the downstairs rooms feature Sienese marble wainscoting and fireplace surrounds.

Although Sarah traveled widely in Europe, Florida and New York with her sisters, she always considered Wilmington her home, and spent the last 10 years of her life full time at Sunnyside. Upon her death in 1968, her heir and nephew bequeathed the house to Wilmington College (now UNCW). Known today as the Kenan House, it is the official residence of the chancellor of the university, which has remained a faithful steward to one of Wilmington's great architectural treasures.

William Irvine is the senior editor of Salt.

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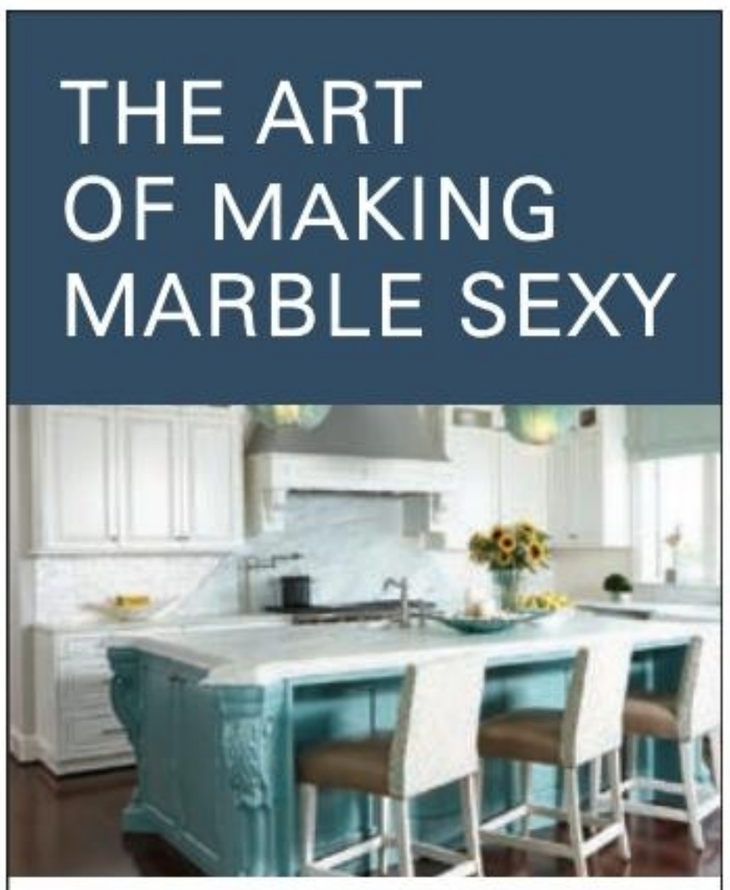
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ALMANAC

June

By Ash Alder

One whiff of wild honeysuckle sends me down the bumpy dirt road, down the gravel drive, down to the back paddock, where the bay pony greets me at the gate, alfalfa hay tangled in her thick black mane.

As a child, summer mornings at the farm were sacred to me. At the earliest light, while the air was still cool, we watered flowerbeds and drinking troughs, then took off bareback down the lush woodland riding trail.

Past the quiet creek, where water moccasins sunned on fallen logs, past the neighboring farm, where an ancient donkey wheezed in exaltation, on past the patch of ripening blackberries, I return to the place I first experienced the taste of wild honeysuckle, a place I return each June, if only in my mind.

This year, summer solstice lands on Friday, June 21.

And yet the sweetness of the season arrives unexpectedly — in an instant, in one delicious whiff, inside a single drop of nectar.

Hand-picked Sweetness

In addition to the uplifting aroma of its summer blossoms, the honeysuckle is a plant of many surprising health benefits. (Add honeysuckle oil to the bath, for example, to soothe arthritis or muscle pain.) But what could be sweeter than adding homemade honeysuckle syrup to your favorite summer refreshment (iced tea, lemonade, sorbet, fresh fruit, you-name-it)? The below recipe stores up to one month in the refrigerator. Do make sure to harvest blossoms that are free from pesticides. And, if you make enough syrup, share the sweetness with a friend.

Honeysuckle Blossom Syrup

Ingredients

1 cup sugar
1 cup water
50 honeysuckle blossoms

Instructions

In a small saucepan, combine sugar, water and honeysuckle blossoms.
Using medium to high heat, bring to a boil, stirring constantly.
Reduce heat and simmer for 3-4 minutes.
Remove from heat and allow to cool completely.
Strain into a jar; refrigerate.

Figs of Summer

June marks the arrival of the earliest blackberries and scuppernongs. Picking herbs at dawn for midday pesto. Fried squash blossoms and fresh sweet corn. The first ripe fig.

I'll never forget the Devon Park rental with the young fig tree out back. "It's never produced fruit," the landlord had told me.

And yet, one June evening, after scrubbing and filling the concrete birdbath, there it was: a tiny green fruit.

I watched that perfect fig slowly ripen day after day, for weeks. Just as a caterpillar emerges from cocoon-state completely transformed, one day my darling fig was purple.

Soon, it would be ready to harvest. One more day, I told myself.

But the next day, the birds had beaten me to it.

Take whatever wisdom you wish from this little memory. And as for you birds: I hope the fig was delicious.

It is the month of June,
The month of leaves and roses,
When pleasant sights salute the eyes
and pleasant scents the noses.
— Nathaniel Parker Willis

Let There Be Magic

The Full Strawberry Moon rises on Monday, June 17 — four days before the solstice. Also called the Honey Moon, the Mead Moon and the Full Rose Moon, allow the brilliance of this June wonder to illuminate all the magic and potential of this brand-new season. And if you happen upon ripe wild strawberries for the occasion, don't forget the honeysuckle blossom syrup in the fridge.

Arts Calendar

Lobster Fest

6/1

Cape Fear Independent Film Festival

6/6-8

The Record Company in Concert

6/18

To add a calendar event, please contact calendar@saltmagazinenc.com. Events must be submitted by the first of the month, one month prior to the event.

6/1

5th Annual Lobster Fest

11 a.m.- 4 p.m. The Church of the Servant hosts its 35th annual Lobster Fest. Lobsters can be eaten on-site or to carry out. Deliveries available for 10 or more lobsters. Admission: $20-$26. Church of the Servant, 4925 Oriole Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 990-3331 or cosepiscopal.org.

5/29- 6/1

46th Annual Cape Fear Blue Marlin Tournament

8:30 a.m. A weekend-long catch-and-release competition with evening parties. Admission: Free for spectators. Wrightsville Beach Marina, 6 Marina Street, Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 262-5566 or capefearbluemarlintournament.com.

6/1

17th Street Surf Shop Shredfest Surf Contest

The Shredfest Surf Contest features short and longboard competitions as well as an open race, junior race and master's races. Admission: Free for spectators. Carolina Beach Fishing Pier, 1810 Canal Drive, Carolina Beach. For info: (910) 799-7811.

6/2

Strings and Harp

5 p.m. The Wilmington Symphony Orchestra presents *Strings and Harp* with harpists Lilac 94. The program include Jenkins' *Over the Stone* and Rachmaninoff's *Symphony No. 2*. Admission: $17-$47. Wilson Center, 703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or cfcc.edu.

Before the Civil War Cruise

9 a.m. Local historian and *Salt* contributor Chris Fonvielle will lead this river tour, covering early history of the Cape Fear area, beginning with Giovanni de Verrazano. Admission: $50. Wilmington Water Tours, 212 South Water Street, Wilmington. For info: wilmingtonwatertours.com.

6/3-9

Port City Music Festival

The 11th annual festival features free world-class orchestra, opera, and chamber music performances throughout the city. Various venues around Wilmington. Admission: Free. For info: (910) 239-9450 or portcitymusicfestival.org.

6/4

Rodrigo Y Gabriela in Concert

6 p.m. The Mexican acoustical guitar duo Rodrigo Y Gabriela in performance at Greenfield Lake Amphitheater. Admission: $50-$60. Greenfield Lake Amphitheater, 1941 Amphitheater Drive, Wilmington. For info: (910)332-0983 or greenfield-lakeamphitheater.com.

The Lightning Thief

The Perry Jackson Musical 7:30 p.m. An adaptation of the best-selling novel by Rick Riordan. Admission: $29-$85. Wilson Center, 703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or cfcc.edu.

6/6

Black History Hike

10 a.m. A 2-mile-long hike to visit important historic sites. Topics include the Wilmington Ten and Williston Normal School. Admission: Free. MLK Jr. Community Center, 401 S. 8th Street, Wilmington. For info: (910) 254-0907.

The Harvest Feast

5:30 p.m. Come hear speaker Keith Rhodes, chef and owner of Catch, while enjoying a three-course family-style dinner and auction. Proceeds go to the MLK Community Kitchen. Admission: $75. MLK Jr. Community Center, 401 S. 8th Street, Wilmington. For info: ceiiwilm.com.

National Theatre Live in HD

2 p.m. to 5 p.m. National Theatre Live presents the political drama *I'm Not Running*, by David Hare live in HD. Admission: $6-$20. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, 620 S. College Road, Wilmington. For info: uncw.edu/olli/nationaltheatre.html.

6/6-8

Cape Fear Independent Film Festival

A showcase for regional and international independent films with 10 awards categories. See website for complete schedule. Admission: $10-$60. Various venues. For info: (910) 742-0012 or cfifn.org.

6/6-9

42nd Street

7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. The celebrated Broadway adaptation of the 1933 Busby Berkeley film. Admission: $20-$32. Thalian Hall, 310 Chestnut Street, Wilmington. For info: thalianhall.org.

6/7

Yonder Mountain String Band in Concert

8 p.m. Admission: $25-$45. Brooklyn Arts Center, 516 North Fourth St., Wilmington. Info: brooklynartsnc.com.

Downtown Sundown Concert

6:30-10 p.m. Performing tonight: Tuesday's Gone, a Lynyrd Skynyrd tribute band. Admission: Free. Ligon-Flynn Parking Lot, 20 South 2nd Street, Wilmington. For info: wilmingtondowntown.com.

6/10

Audubon Bird Walk

9 a.m. The Wrightsville Beach Bird Stewards lead a bird walk to view local nesting colonies. Admission: Free. Public Access No. 43, Wrightsville Beach. For info: wbbirdsteward.blogspot.com.

Wilmington Sharks Baseball

7:05 p.m. The Wilmington Sharks take on Fayetteville in the Coastal Plain League. Admission: $7-$11. Buck Hardee Field- Legion Sports Complex, 2149 Carolina Beach Road, Wilmington. For info: wilmingtonsharks.com.

6/13

Jazz at the Mansion

6:30-8 p.m. The Taylor Lee Quartet will perform. Bring blankets and chairs; beer, wine, and snacks available. Admission: $10-$18. Bellamy Mansion Museum, 503 Market St., Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-3700 or bellamymansion.org.

6/14-15

North Carolina Blueberry Festival

The two-day festival features BBQ cookoff, car show, bike race, live music and a shagging competition—and plenty of blueberries. Admission: Free. Downtown Burgaw, US 17 Business and Wilmington Street, Burgaw. For info: ncblueberryfestival.com.

6/15

Historic Oakdale Walking Tour

10 a.m.-12 pm. Local historian Robin Triplett leads this tour of North Carolina's oldest rural cemetery. Admission: $10. Oakdale Cemetery, 520 N. 15th Street, Wilmington. For info: oakdalecemetery.org.

Historical Southport Bicycle Tour

9:30-11:30 a.m. Take a scenic tour along the waterfront and historic sites in Southport. Bikes and helmets available for rent. Admission: $20-$28. Adventure Kayak Company, 807 North Howe Street, Southport. For info: theadventurecompany.net.

6/18

The Record Company in Concert

6 p.m. Admission: $20-$25. Kids under 11 are admitted free. Greenfield Lake Amphitheater, 1941 Amphitheater Drive, Wilmington. For info: (910) 332-0983 or greenfieldlakeamphitheater.com.

6/20-23

Little Miss Sunshine

7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. Thalian Association presents *Little Miss Sunshine*, a play adapted from the Academy Award-winning film. Admission: $17-$25. Erin E. McNeill Fine Arts Center, Cape Fear Academy, 3900 South College Road, Wilmington. For info: (910) 251-1788 or thalian.org.

6/21

An Evening With Neil Sedaka

7:30 p.m. Cape Fear Stage presents *An Evening with Neil Sedaka*, the popular performer and member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Admission: $48-$125. Wilson Center,703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or cfcc.edu.

6/22

An Evening With Paula Poundstone

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7:30 p.m. The Wilson Center presents *An Evening With Paula Poundstone*, stand-up comedian, author and actress. Admission: $35-$45. Wilson Center,703 N. Third Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 362-7999 or cfcc.edu.

6/21-23

Cape Fear Blues Festival

Live concerts, a blues workshop, and many bands, including the Scott Ellison Band, the Rhythm Bones, and Catesby Jones. Free Sunday blues jam at the Rusty Nail, 1310 South 5th Avenue begins at noon. Various venues. For tickets and info: (910) 350-8822 or capefearblues.org.

6/27

Battleship 101

10 a.m. Come tour the battleship and find out what makes it tick, from radar, engineering, and gunnery to daily shipboard life. Admission: $6-$14. Battleship North Carolina, 1 Battleship Road, Wilmington. For info: (910) 251-5797 or battleshipnc.com.

6/28-29

Mud Days

9 a.m-12 p,m. In celebration of International Mud Month, the Children's Museum presents a chance to get down and slide in the mud. Mud pie classes and other entertainments will be offered. Wear a bathing suit and bring a towel and a change of clothes. Admission: $9.75. Children's Museum of Wilmington, 116 Orange Street, Wilmington. For info: (910) 254-3534.

WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

Monday

Wrightsville Farmers Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Curbside beach market offering a variety of fresh, locally grown produce, baked goods, plants and unique arts and crafts. Seawater Lane, Wrightsville Beach. Info: (910) 256-7925 or www.townofwrightsvillebeach.com.

Tuesday

Wine Tasting

6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Free wine tasting hosted by a wine professional plus small plate specials all night. Admission: Free. The Fortunate Glass, 29 South Front Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 399-4292 or www.fotunateglass.com.

Cape Fear Blues Jam

8 p.m. A night of live music performed by the area's best Blues musicians. Bring your instrument and join in the fun. Admission: Free. The Rusty Nail, 1310 South Fifth Avenue, Wilmington. Info: (910) 251-1888 or www.capefearblues.org.

Wednesday

Free Wine Tasting at Sweet n Savory Cafe

5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Sample delicious wines for free. Pair them with a meal, dessert, or appetizer and learn more about the wines of the world. Live music starts at 7. Admission: Free. Sweet n Savory Cafe, 1611 Pavilion Place, Wilmington. Info: (910) 256-0115 or www.swetnsavorycafe.com.

Weekly Exhibition Tours

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. A weekly tour of the iconic Cameron Arts Museum, featuring presentations about the various exhibits and the selection and installation process. Cameron Arts Museum, 3201 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.cameronartsmuseum.org.

Ogden Farmers Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Local farmers, producers and artisans sell fresh fruits, veggies, plants, eggs, cheese, meat, honey, baked goods, wine, bath products and more. Ogden Park, 615 Ogden Park Drive, Wilmington. Info: (910) 538-6223 or www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/events-calendar/ogden-farmers-market.

Poplar Grove Farmers Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Open-air market held on the front lawn of historic Poplar Grove Plantation offering fresh produce, plants, herbs, baked goods and handmade artisan crafts. Poplar Grove Plantation, 10200 Us Highway 17 North, Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.poplargrove.org/farmers-market.

Thursday

Wrightsville Beach Brewery Farmers Market

2 p.m. – 6 p.m. Come support local farmers and artisans every Thursday afternoon in the beer garden at the Wrightsville Beach Brewery. Shop for eggs, veggies, meat, honey, and handmade crafts while enjoying one of the Brewery's tasty beers. Stay for live music afterwards. Admission: Free. Wrightsville Beach Brewery, 6201 Oleander Dr., Wilmington. Info: (910) 256-4938 or www.wbbeer.com.

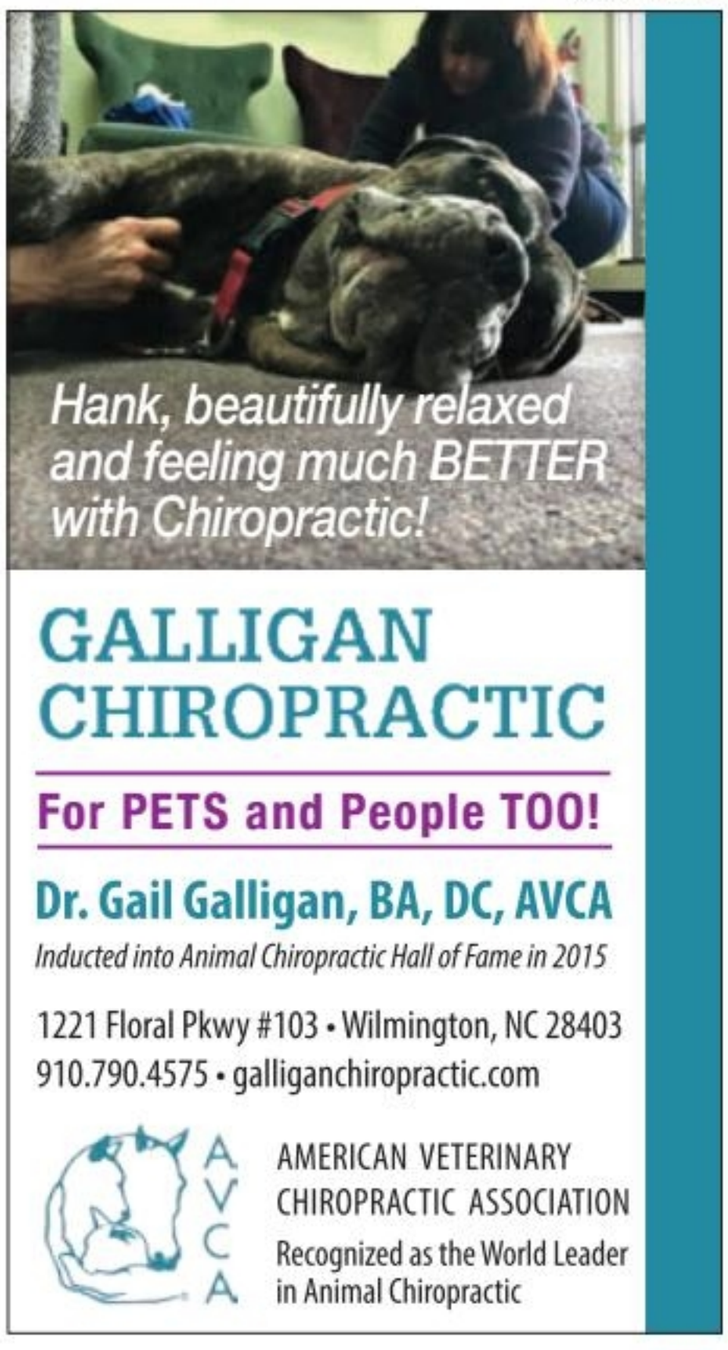
Yoga at the CAM

12–1 p.m. Join in a soothing retreat sure to charge you up while you relax in a beautiful, comfortable setting. Sessions are ongoing and are open to both beginners and experienced participants. Admission: $5–8. Cameron Art Museum, 3201 South Seventeenth Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 395-5999 or www.cameronartmuseum.org.

Friday and Saturday

Cape Fear Museum Little Explorers

10 a.m. Meet your friends in Museum Park for fun, hands-on activities! Enjoy interactive circle time, conduct exciting experiments, and play games related to a weekly theme. Perfect for children ages 3 to 6 and their adult helpers. Admission: Free. Cape Fear Museum, 814 Market Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 798-4370 or www.capefearmuseum.com.



Blackwater Adventure Tours

Join in an educational guided boat tour from downtown Wilmington to River Bluffs, exploring the mysterious beauty of the Northeast Cape Fear River. See website for schedule. River Bluffs, 1100 Chair Road, Castle Hayne. Info: (910) 623-5015 or www.riverbluffsliving.com.

Saturday

Carolina Beach Farmers Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Outdoor "island-style" market featuring live music and local growers, producers and artisans selling fresh local produce, wines meats, baked goods, herbal products and handmade crafts. Carolina Beach Lake Park, Highway 421 & Atlanta Avenue, Carolina Beach. Info: (910) 458-2977 or www.carolinabeach-farmersmarket.com.

Wilmington Farmers Market at Tidal Creek

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Weekly gathering of vetted vendors with fresh produce straight from the farm. Sign up for the weekly newsletter for advanced news of the coming weekend's harvest. 5329 Oleander Drive, Wilmington. For info: thewilmington-farmersmarket.com.

Riverfront Farmers Market

8 a.m. – 1 p.m. Curbside market featuring local farmers, producers, artisans, crafters and live music. Dock and Front Street, Wilmington. Info: (910) 538-6223 or www.wilmingtondowntown.com/events/farmers-market.

Taste of Downtown Wilmington

2:15 p.m., 2:45 p.m., & 3:15 p.m. A weekly gourmet food tour by Taste Carolina, featuring some of downtown Wilmington's best restaurants. Each time slot showcases different food. See website for details. Admission: $55–75. Riverwalk at Market Street, Wilmington. Info: (919) 237-2254 or www.tastecarolina.net/wilmington/.

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It's Summer at the Wrightsville Beach Museum

June 2 – 5-7pm	**Summer Open House** – Live music, food trucks, sneak peak at new cottage, expanded gift shop with discount for the day
June 22	**Wright Holman Shrimperoo**– perennial favorite hosted by Hardee, Hunt and Williams! At Mott's Channel Seafood ~ Freshest shrimp! Great food choices! Live music! Unique and select silent auction items! Support the museum as we grow! Tickets on sale now.
June 4	**Lemonade on the Porch.** First of 12 weeks provided by local businesses.
June 5 – 10:30am	First of weekly **Kid's Club** programs. Free.10 more weeks to follow!
June 13– 7:30pm	**Illustrated Talk** by Jay Barnes. NC Hurricanes
June 17-21	**Camp Chris Stone.** Fun and learning in the marsh
June 27 – 7:30pm	**Illustrated Talk** by Elaine Henson on Wrightsville Beach "Between the Wars"
July 6	**Lumina Event**- Games, music, swing dancers and book signing
July 12	**Robert Holst Art Show.** Celebrate our beach of the 1970s and 80s.
Mid July	**Sharks Teeth Program** by Elliot Weston

Keep up with our events by coming by the museum or
For more information and a current list of programs:
www.wbmuseumofhistory.com

Port City People

Harbor Island Garden Club Luncheon

Surf Club in Wrightsville Beach

Friday, May 3, 2019

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Kim Watters, Marta Cohen, Margaret Collins, Vicki Dull

Katy Cofer, Jo Cobb, Marta Cohen, Kathy Gresham, Shirley Gearhart, Lynn Walker

Carol Coble, Anne Pleasants

Shirley Gearhart, Sherri Robinson

Knox Pierson, Katy Cofer

Carolee Preston, Kay Morgan, Dot Balkcum

Leigh & Jan Kelly, Lissa Barnhardt

Wylene McDonald, Margaret Collins, Kathy Gresham

Nan Spainhour, Cindy Jupp, Kim Starbuck Gilbert

Jeanette Golder, Ann Hill

Port City People

Run for the Roses

Kentucky Derby Party & 23rd Annual Gala of the Landfall Foundation

Saturday, May 4, 2019

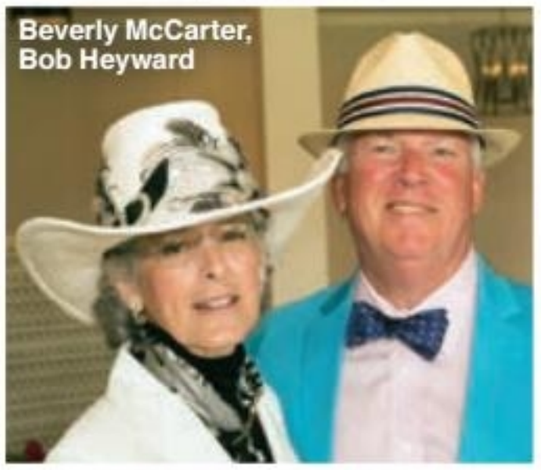
Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Michael & Kristen Shaheen, Mary & Tom Brown

Carol Trojniar, Aimee Lamy, Michelle Clark

Doris & Alex Smith

Catherine Bonnette, Gerard Kratchman


Beverly McCarter, Bob Heyward

Nancy & Dan Levine, Lisa Hysko

Abe & Carol Walston

Ken & Carol Trojniar

Michelle Thompson, Mary Munn, Susan Pasquale

Patti Harrigan, Charlie Zimmer

Port City People

16th Annual Good Shepherd Tee Off Dinner & Auction

Country Club of Landfall

Sunday, May 5, 2019

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Donna & Michael Jacobs, Elaine Leggett & Rob Kaiser

Barbara & Ralph Russo

Michael Shaheen, Katrina Knight

Kate Beck, Courtney Cook, Karen Carter

Russell & Schorr Davis, Lynn & Rodney Turner

Sonya & Alan Perry

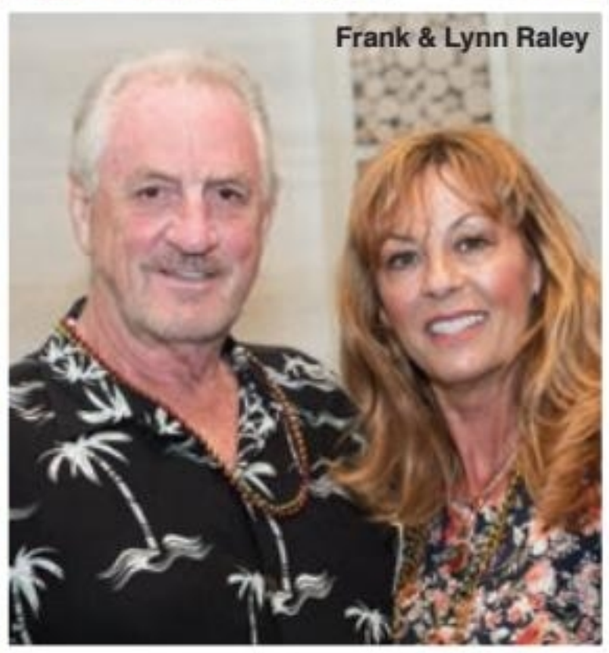
Lawrence Waddell, Wally & Mary Schumacher

Tom Wade, Amanda Bernstein

Jim & Cathy Pierce, Deb & Lee Steinmeyer

Josie Owens, Brud & Jean Deas

Milta Guys, Al Wordsworth, Leita McCormick


Frank & Lynn Raley

Port City People

16th Annual Making Legends Local Gala

"90s Rule!"

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Photographs by Bill Ritenour

Beth Schrader, Bo Dean

Erika Denci, Rachael Rachael, Ryan Hinge, Josh Woodfox

Jennifer Davidson, Natasha Pfeiffer

Phyllis Goodson, David Eckles

John & Beth Willse, Allana & Robbie Ratliff

Melisa Gallison, Michelle Clark

Ashley Cutrell, Thorne Craft

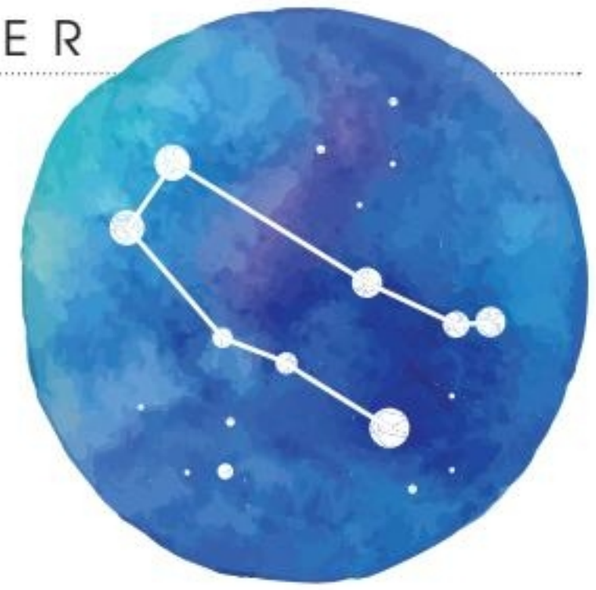
Alison Shearer, Justin Sorrels, Rob Shearer

Ken Broomfield, Rich Novelli

Regan Springs, Alex Hayson, Cassy Taverna

Eddie Seijo, Jason & Angela Pisani

Dr. Daniel Maggio, Shannon Hutchinson



Whoa Is Me!

And you, too, with this month's alignment of Jupiter in idealistic Sadge and foggy Neptune in Pisces

By Astrid Stellanova

We've seen our share of cosmic conniption fits, Star Children, but just remember that half of 2019 is already over. And astrological rarities keep coming. The Arietids are on June 7, and on June 18, there's an unusual alignment when Jupiter in Sagittarius meets Neptune in Pisces at 90 degrees.

If all that means zip to you, consider that the alignment hasn't happened in 13 years, since 2006. But this year it happens three times — the next time is on November 8. Circle that on your Day-Timers, Sweet Peas. Some seers say this planetary dust-up pits idealism (yep, thanks to Neptune) against ideologies (Sagittarius). Bottom line? Pay attention to excesses. Rein in your appetites and sit tall in the saddle. But especially, just hold your horses.

Gemini (May 21–June 20)
Hot balls of fire, you may be twitchier than Jerry Lee Lewis. But the soundtrack to your life is more like that song, "Same Trailer, Different Park." If that ain't a song, well then it should be, given how you Geminis are wrestling with lots of energy and no place to put it. Good works, my Twins, might just make you do something with that nutsy energy.

Cancer (June 21–July 22)
Honey, you have been getting waaaay too intense. Like, you are 50 shades of black and white. If your saga gets any more black and white, somebody needs to take a brush to your head and start painting your life in rainbow colors. Nothing in life is this cut and dried.

Leo (July 23–August 22)
Like sweet little Sally Struthers says, save them jagwires, Darlin! Or pick an animal that will make your heart bleed. She's always saving something, and you got to love her for it. But there is a part of you, little Lion Heart, that needs rescuing. It is possible you have a lot more at risk than you like to show.

Virgo (August 23–September 22)
Yes, you have got some talent and you have got plenty of desire to take center stage and blow away the competition. Breaking wind is not a musical event, Sugar. When you put in the work to compete, everybody and his brother will be calling.

Libra (September 23–October 22)
How do you even walk when you keep one foot in your mouth? It was just that bad when you marched into a situation with all the sensitivity of Bigfoot at Cracker Barrel. Next time you open your pie hole, fill it with a big ole slice of double chocolate fudge Co' Cola Cake.

Scorpio (October 23–November 21)
Oh, yes, Honey, you got some axes to grind and you could split some skulls right about now. Thinking of something nice to say about your exes is like trying to divide by zero. But pull in your horns, 'cause they are about to dive into a tripwire.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21)
Honey, stopped in your tracks, you been grounded like fog closing in on an airport. Frustration ain't even a big enough word for it. If there was ever a time for you to stop, chill out and go inside, it's N-O-W. It will save you a whole lot of struggle next month.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19)
That silver-tongued devil you like couldn't be trusted if his tongue had a notary seal on it. Gets you every time. Right about now is a good time to politely walk back on plans you made together. Just give it a week to cool off before signing up.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18)
You got a backbone. But where is your funny bone? If you want to have a happy life, Sugar, you will have to find what is hilarious in the not so good, and what is at least worth a smile in the hardest times. There lies the greatest strength.

Pisces (February 19–March 20)
That bottle of lightning may or may not be the cure for what ails you. When somebody says grab it while you can, you may have just been had, Honey. And when you open the lid on that bottle, it may just be more hot air. They can keep it.

Aries (March 21–April 19)
You feel like a dog without a tail, which is a doggone shame because this month you will have reason to wag it. In the run-up to the wag-worthy time ahead, you are going to have to overcome some big barkers who suck the oxygen away.

Taurus (April 20–May 20)
Did you mean to plow that same row twice? Sugar, you were as nervous as a cheerleader at the prison football game. That is not you; you're off your game but if you can focus, find your mark and breathe, you are set to take the prize on home.

For years, Astrid Stellanova owned and operated Curl Up and Dye Beauty Salon in the boondocks of North Carolina until arthritic fingers and her popular astrological readings provoked a new career path.

Why We Teach

Because love trumps money

By Clyde Edgerton

After a recent day of teacher protest in Raleigh, a Buzz from the *StarNews* went something like this: "If they want more money, why do they teach?"

One answer: "To educate young people in such a way that America doesn't end up with about 40 percent of its adults who think like you do."

For some reason, I'm guessing the question-asker is an adult male — kind of irreverent in an annoying way, annoyingly pushy, laughing in an annoying way about being pushy. This guy, let's call him Norman, probably has a boring, well-paying job, and loves to watch TV and collect, say, bicycle spokes. He made Cs in high school, finished two months of college, then dropped out because it was boring.

Today, his boring job pays a pretty good salary — for a person with the creativity of mud. He has health insurance and is going to retire as soon as possible so he can spend the rest of his life watching TV and collecting bicycle spokes. He likes quiz shows and action films — the ones that aren't too complicated. He likes to bet on sports. He dreams of being a millionaire. He knows that greed makes the world go around. Greed makes people work hard. Teachers aren't greedy, so they don't work hard.

I had Norman pictured as about 40 years old, making maybe 48 to 54 grand a year, but I just now had a switch-glitch.

I had him wrong.

Norman is actually a multimillionaire who lives carefully, counting his money. He got some lucky breaks. He thinks of himself as cool — though he doesn't collect bicycle spokes — he has no hobbies; he's a little less creative than the first Norman. He does have two Thomas Kinkade paintings except one of them doesn't have the little original spot of real paint. He has a cool Mercedes. He's 62, and has had some face-work. Maybe a little too much — since he looks kind of like a 38-year-old who's constipated.

He'd volunteer in a public school if he could find one that paid $1,200 per hour. But why should he spend even a second thinking about public schools? He has a portfolio. And a nice $920,000 yacht. He has a membership in a high-end country club. (Don't get me wrong — there are people in country clubs without face-lifts.) His thought is: What is public education anyway but a place for poor kids? Like the children of teachers. He, like the first Norman, asks, "If they want more money, why do they teach?"

They teach because most of them love teaching. Love it in spite of a collapse of respect for what they do — in spite of a surprisingly large percentage of their country's budget going for "leadership." Whoa. In spite of bosses with a Bluetoothed ear who sometimes visit in schools that might well expel a student who refused to un-Bluetooth her ear. In spite of insane testing mandates from the government. In spite of people working around them for $11 an hour — with their state government and local school board rubber-stamping those poverty-making wages.

They love teaching. They are rewarded by the look in the eyes of a child who is excited about learning something — like, say, a new language, how to play clarinet, or how to solve a calculus problem. They believe that look in the eyes of a curious child might, with some luck, be morphed into a dream that does not depend on money for happiness, a dream that finds purpose in serving others, that creates a permanent curiosity about the world, a permanent respect, even love, for their neighbors — even neighbors who have far less than they do. The deep excitement in teaching and learning is water for a thirsty nation.

While it's appropriate to say, "Thank you for your service" to a vet, it's just as appropriate to say, "Thank you for your service" to a teacher. Both make our nation safe. Both have tremendous power — one to destroy, one to build.

If they want more money, why do they teach? To build student insight and character through knowledge, and thus make our nation better able to handle something as risky as democracy.

Clyde Edgerton is the author of 10 novels, a memoir and most recently, Papadaddy's Book for New Fathers. *He is the Thomas S. Keenan III Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing at UNCW.*

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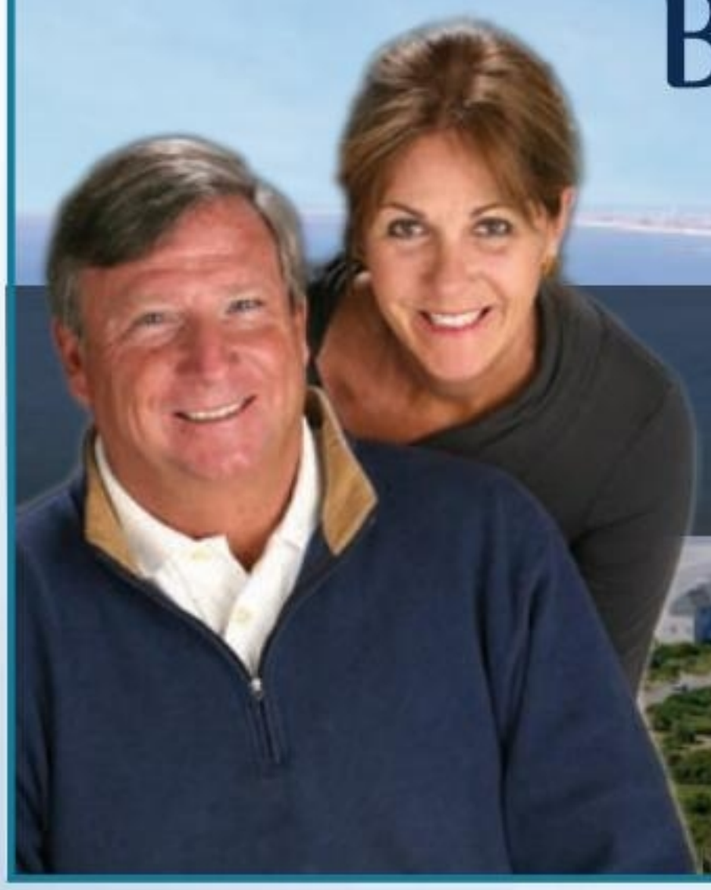

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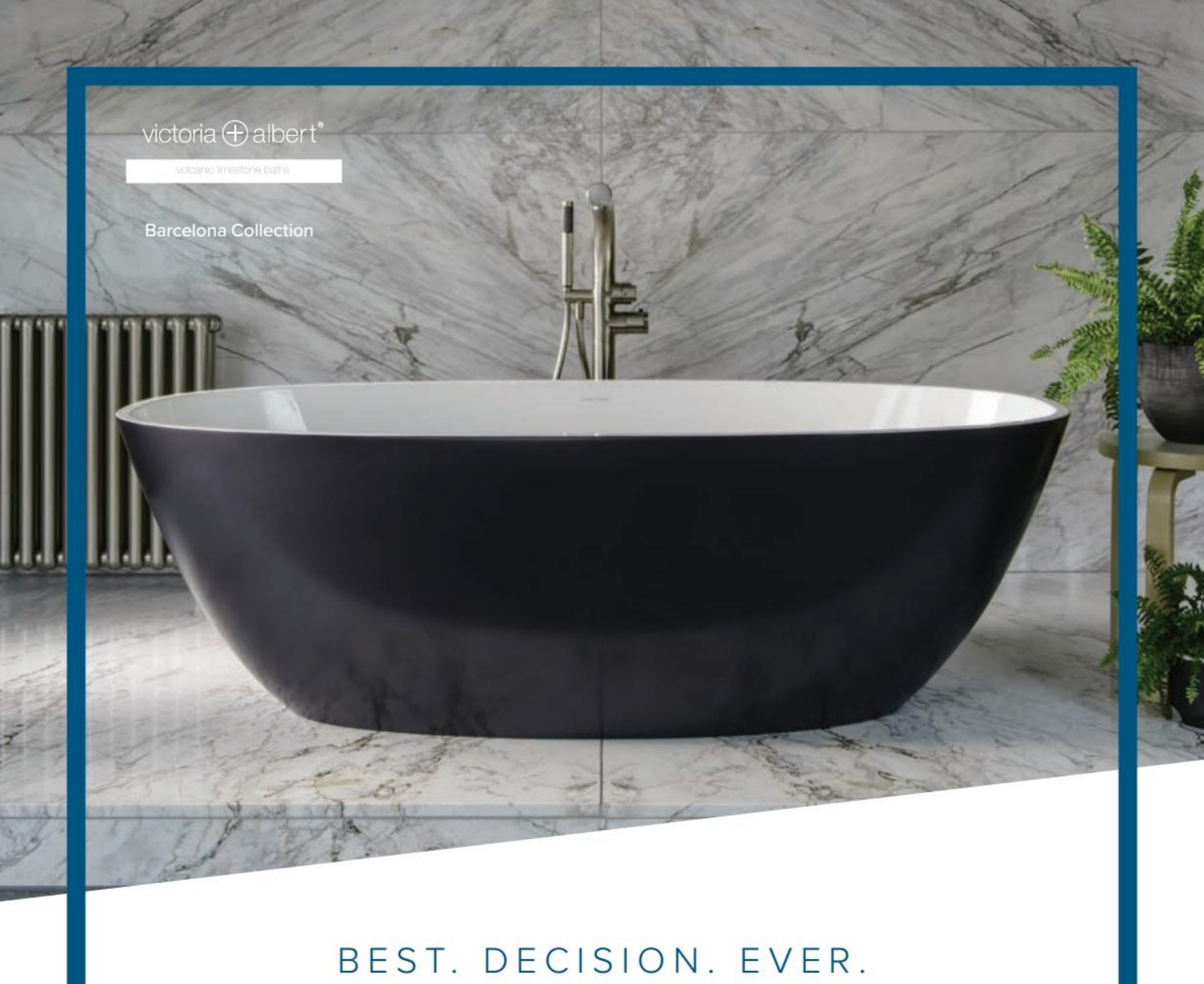

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